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February 17, 2012 • No 226

Praying for rain as water companies say 'prepare for a drought'

By Ed Hill

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THE county is facing imminent water restrictions such as hosepipe bans if we do not get heavy rain, with one water company saying that a drought is inevitable this year.

Despite recent snow, water companies say this has been one of the driest winters on record.

A spokesman for Thames Water, which supplies customers around Sevenoaks, said: "Ground water levels in parts of our region are lower than they were during the 1976 drought following below average rainfall for 18 of the last 23 months. It's now not a case of whether we'll be having a drought this year, it's a case of when and how bad."

There are five companies which supply water to customers in Kent. They draw their water from a number of

sources including reservoirs, boreholes and chalk aquifers.

Bowl Water reservoir in west Kent is said to be less than 40 per cent full than it normally would be at this time of year. The lake, which supplies the Medway towns, Thanet and Hastings area, is managed by Southern water and also supplies South East Water.

Southern Water strategy manager Meyrick Gough said: "Our reservoirs have not refilled as we would have hoped so far this winter."

"The December rain helped but we now need similar amounts over February, March and April so our resources can recover in time for summer. This rain is particularly important as January was so dry."

"Our biggest reservoir, Bowl, doesn't need to be full to the brim but we'd hope

Continued on page 2



Picture: ADY KERRY

CAN YOUTH POLICY HALT GILLS SLUMP?

HOPE: Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler has turned youngsters like Jack Evans - SEE SPORT

FINANCE

£6m council tax left unpaid

MEDWAY Council has been revealed as having the worst council tax collection rate in the South East.

The figures for 2010-11 show nearly £6m was outstanding.

The town hall says the figures do not tell the full story about council finances. **PAGE 2**

ENVIRONMENT

Hot air over wind farm row

SOME of Medway's MPs have come under pressure for demanding the Government stop subsidies for onshore wind farms.

They deny claims they are not green, but the say the subsidies are not a good use of public money, and the wind farms are ineffective. **PAGE 6**

MOTORSPORT

Brands Hatch beats the blues

BRANDS Hatch has revealed how it has kept the economic gloom at bay by moving into club motorsport. While events like the F3 Cup and Lotus Cup attract more modest crowds than higher-profile events like the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC), they have become indispensable. **PAGE 70**

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TOWN CENTRES

Fears parking price hikes could be the final straw for our high streets

By Marijke Cox

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RISING parking charges across almost all of the county's districts could put the final nail in the coffin for the high street as we know it, warn business experts.

Of Kent's 13 councils, only three have said they will not increase fees, while the remaining 10 have either already put up charges, are due to implement rises, or are reviewing fees.

In Shepway, a major campaign has been launched in a bid to stop the council introducing on-street parking charges where it is currently free to park, claiming that it would drive shops away.

From April, parking fees will go up by as much as 20p in parts of Canterbury; by the same amount in some Sevenoaks car parks; and in Dover, Deal and Sandwich drivers will see the amount of time they can park for their money cut in some car parks, and long-stay fees increased by 50p.

Gravesham has already implemented increases with the previous £1 flat fee for four hours in the town pushed up to £2.

In Tonbridge and Malling, town centre parking charges remain unchanged, but residents and business permits will go up – as in most of the other districts.

Nearby Tunbridge Wells will discuss parking charges at a meeting next week, with the authority expected to increase fees by 10p or 20p.

Medway has also agreed to push up fees in some areas. Only Dartford, Swale and Ashford have made no increases. Thanet council is due to carry out a review.

Business experts have warned the widespread increases could spell the end of the under-pressure high street.

During a visit to Margate – which has the second highest number of empty shops in the coun-



PAYING UP: It will soon cost you more to park

try – retail guru Mary Portas stressed that the cost of town centre parking was a major issue.

Kent and Medway chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses Roger House said while he could not criticise councils for increasing charges during times of economic hardship, he admitted it could be the final nail in the coffin for the traditional high street.

"I know local authorities haven't got as much money and therefore I can't criticise them for making these decisions, but if we are trying to build our local economy and support our high streets we have to make it attractive to get people there," he said.

"If you add the cost of parking to other costs drivers have, such as fuel, the high street is not

so attractive and people will go to out of town places to shop, where it is likely they can park for free. This means big corporate chains are supported rather than independent micro-businesses, which are edged out."

Mr House, admitted, however, that it may be time to look past the traditional high street.

"Is the day of the high street over? I think perhaps we should be looking towards providing space for micro-businesses as part of agreements when big firms like Tesco or Asda are developed," he said. "High streets should also be used for multi-occupancy – for shops and residential."

"We've got to start thinking differently."

Shepway District Council, which has come under fire from residents and businesses for its proposed parking strategy, defended the plans.

The strategy includes introducing charges where it is currently free to park.

Leader Cllr Robert Bliss said: "One of the objectives is actually to support local businesses by encouraging a greater turnover of vehicles in convenient high street parking spaces."

"We want to make it easier to find convenient parking for that quick trip to the shops."

But Kent spokesman for the Association of British Drivers Ian Taylor said motorists were being hit yet again.

"Drivers don't have bottomless pockets and yet they are being expected to find more money," he said. "According to a Department for Transport Act from 1984, councils are not allowed to raise parking charges to raise money."

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ 11-plus back in schools

CHILDREN will sit September's Medway Test at their own primary schools instead of independent test centres, following significant problems last year.

Insufficient staffing at one of the test centres led to a 40-minute delay, prompting an investigation which uncovered problems.

Medway Council is returning the exam, on September 18 and 19, back to primary schools for the majority of children.

➔ Games helpers needed

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to help out at the 35th British Transplant Games which are being hosted in Medway.

The annual multi-sport event for transplant patients runs from August 23-26 and will take place at Medway Park in Gillingham and across Medway and north Kent.

To get involved with volunteering email sportsdevteam@medway.gov.uk or call 01634 338764.

➔ Fisherman found dead

AN angler from Chatham was found dead in his tent by the River Medway after going on an overnight fishing trip during the cold snap.

Martin Hoskins, 48, had been fishing alone on the stretch of river in East Peckham on Friday, February 3, when temperatures dropped to -6C. It was one of the coldest nights of the winter.

He was found by a member of the public on Saturday morning. His death is not being treated as suspicious.

An inquest has been opened and adjourned. A post mortem has been carried out.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Negotiations under way to decide locations of two new fire stations

MEDWAY is to get two new fire stations as part of major restructuring plans from the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority (KFRS).

The body, which manages the fire and rescue service, is in discussion with Medway Council about locations. Sites considered in the past include Rochester Airport and Brompton.

As part of the restructuring, the fire authority plans to close eight fire stations around Kent. It says many of them are under used or in the wrong place.

The restructuring is part of a 25 per cent budget cut the KFRS says it has to make over the next three years. It also says there has been a 25 per cent drop in the number of incidents it attends.

Authority chairman Bryan Cope said: "The safety of the

public and our firefighters is always our top priority. However, the evidence shows we have eight more fire engines than we need, even to deal with a major emergency."

"Several stations, some established in Victorian times, are now in the wrong location, while in other areas we need more emergency cover."

The two new fire stations are part of five new sites that will be built around the county, including New Ash Green and Herne Bay, and one already planned for Ramsgate.

The stations that will be closed are Matfield, Halling, Horton Kirby, Sturry, Seal, St Margaret's, Queenborough, and Rusthall. A second fire engine will also be removed from Hythe.

The decision has been condemned by the Fire Brigade

Union, which says it will lead to response times that could be as much as four-and-a-half minutes longer. It says it will put lives at risk and endanger firefighters.

FBU Kent Brigade secretary, Mark Simmons said: "Fighting fires is dangerous in any circumstances, but tackling a fire that has been left longer to develop creates added risks to firefighters as well as increasing the possibility of fatalities or serious casualties."

There will be no compulsory redundancies.

A spokesperson for KFRS said: "A possible site for Rochester is being considered, but it is too early to confirm a specific location. Work is still under way to identify a suitable location for the second new build in the Gillingham and Chatham Maritime area."

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ROADS

Ministers say county won't get a penny of foreign lorry tax cash

By Marijke Cox

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HIGHWAYS chiefs are putting increasing pressure on government to secure cash from the proposed foreign lorry tax after ministers admitted Kent would not get a single penny.

Around 87 per cent of all international road haulage that comes to the UK arrives via Dover, travelling on the M20 or M2, but despite the county shouldering this burden the Government said none of the money generated under the plans would go to Kent County Council.

Tory councillors have vowed to push on to ensure the county receives some of the funds, warning that future development at Dover and Calais ports would increase the number of foreign lorries and cause further problems and expense to Kent's taxpayers.

KCC has long campaigned for help funding a solution to the chaos caused by Operation Stack – when lorries are parked on the M20 during disruption at cross-Channel ports – as well as help paying for damage to the M20, M2 and other main roads used by hauliers.

Hope was raised last month when ministers announced they were looking at charging foreign lorry drivers to use UK roads. But KCC highways member Cllr Bryan Sweetland said none of the money generated would go to Kent.



UNDER PRESSURE: Most foreign trucks enter Britain through our ports and use Kent's roads

KCC chiefs are now stepping up pressure to ensure funds are directed to the county.

Cllr Sweetland said: "As we made clear in our Growth without Gridlock transport strategy, we will seek a proportion of the revenue generated from this proposal to fund improvements and ensure greater resilience in Kent's road infrastructure."

"The Government forecast that from 2015-16, the scheme will generate net revenue of around £23 million.

"I have heard the roads minister recently assert none of this money will be going to KCC.

"But the fact remains that 87 per cent of all

international road haulage in the UK comes via the Dover Strait and with the planned port development at both Dover and Calais, this figure will increase further.

"Foreign lorries do not contribute a penny to Treasury coffers, leaving the taxpayer – especially those in Kent – to foot the bill for the costs they cause.

"To compound the situation, foreign trucks fill up with diesel bought outside the UK, where fuel duty is far lower, so not only do they avoid contributing to the UK economy at the pumps, they also put UK hauliers at a massive commercial disadvantage."

KCC highways chiefs are now also looking to lobby ministers for the possible development of a fuel station in the duty free zone at Dover port, offering European levels of duty so as to stop foreign lorry drivers filling up abroad.

They will be meeting with roads minister Mike Penning in three weeks' time to call for a share of revenue to lessen the impacts that foreign lorries have on the county's roads.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said the authority had spent 20 years asking for a foreign lorry charging system.

"But if we can't get a cast-iron guarantee that money will be given back to the councils that pay to fix the damage caused by foreign trucks, then it achieves nothing," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Record bid for tickets

VISIT Kent is celebrating a record number of applications for free tickets to this year's My Kent Big Weekend. More than 79,500 applications had been received by the time the website closed for entries at midnight on Monday – 27,800 more than last year. The applications will now be entered into a ballot for each of the 123 attractions available and the 16,500 free tickets allocated. Successful applicants will be notified by February 29.

➔ MP's call to musicians

ROCHESTER and Strood MP Mark Reckless has invited under-18s, solo artists, bands and live music venues in his constituency to nominate themselves for the second annual Parliamentary live music competition, Rock the House.

Forms and information on the competition are at www.rockthehouse2012.com.

Prizes include music equipment; a chance to play at high-profile festivals; and mingle with the great and the good of the music industry.

➔ Top choirs announced

THE finalists in Top Choir Kent 2012 competition have been named as Bromley Boy Singers, Canterbury Girls Chamber Choir, Kent College Sedecim Choir, Kent Girls' Choir, Opus 32, Pharos Chamber Choir, St Stephen's Church Choir, and Thanet Community Gospel Choir. They will battle it out on Saturday, March 31, at the Shirley Hall, King's School, Canterbury, in the presence of Lord Carey.

CRIME

Police authority ready for challenge of hand over to new commissioner

IN JUST nine months Kent will see one of the biggest changes in almost half a century to the way the police force is overseen.

One person will take over the role of the Kent Police Authority and be given responsibility for hiring and firing Kent Police's chief constable, setting the force's budget, and monitoring the performance of officers.

And, despite the huge task ahead for the individual, there is no obligatory experience needed for whoever takes on the new role of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). With the countdown started and a number of contenders having already thrown their hats into the ring for the position, Kent Police Authority is preparing for what could be a challenging handover.

From November 22 – just a week after the PCC is elected – the police authority, which has 16 members overseeing the force, will cease to exist.

But chief executive of Kent Police Authority Graham Hooper said he was confident there would be a smooth transition.

"We can't be complacent; this is a big change. There are



CONFIDENT: Graham Hooper

bound to be some challenges that come up and we will find out how to deal with issues when they arise," he said.

"I'm reasonably confident we've got a good plan. We'll be using a blend of material for the transition work: national guidance, good practice from other sectors, such as the directly elected mayoral model used in Lewisham, alongside in-house expertise."

In the run up to the elections, the police authority will be running briefing sessions with candidates to offer information about Kent Police.

"They can take that away and make their own decisions

about how to use the material we have provided," said Mr Hooper. "In that week leading up to he or she taking office we can sit down with them and brief them and assist them in understanding the role they are about to take on."

Mr Hooper said his job will be to ensure the PCC is properly supported.

He added: "The PCC will want to be seen to be raising standards and so I'm sure they will be in listening mode."

The new PCC role has come under fire from the chairman of the Kent Police Federation, Ian Pointon.

When the new system was unveiled by the Government, he warned it was leading to "dangerous new ground around the politicisation of the police".

"They will have the power to hire and fire chief constables, which will present unwelcome pressure leading up to elections," he said. "I can't see what's fundamentally wrong with the current system. Is it perfect? Absolutely not, but I don't think it's broken."

Army veteran Col Tim Collins, famed for his inspirational Iraq War speech, is hoping to be the Tory candidate for PCC.

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ENERGY

Rebel MPs demand that Cameron stops £400m onshore turbine subsidy

By Marijke Cox

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FIVE Kent MPs have demanded that the government slash its annual £400 million subsidy to the "inefficient" onshore wind farm industry.

MP for Rochester and Strood Mark Reckless, Chatham and Aylesford MP Tracey Crouch, MP for Dover and Deal Charlie Elphicke, Gravesham's Adam Holloway, and MP for Folkestone and Hythe Damian Collins are among 101 Tory backbenchers to form a revolt against the Prime Minister.

They argue onshore wind farms are "inefficient" and a blight on the countryside, and that it was unfair for taxpayers to be burdened with the cost.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, they stated: "In these financially straightened times, we think it is unwise to make consumers pay, through taxpayer subsidy, for inefficient and intermittent energy production that typifies onshore wind turbines.

"In the ongoing review of subsidy for renewable energy, we ask the Government to dramatically cut the subsidy for onshore wind and spread the savings made between other types of reliable renewable energy production and energy efficiency measures."

They added that they were worried the new National Planning Policy Framework in its current form reduced the chances of local people defeating unwanted wind farms.

Chatham and Aylesford's Ms Crouch said the MPs were concerned about value for money as well as the impact on the countryside.

She said: "As a Kent MP in a county relatively untouched by onshore wind farms it is very important that we protect residents and taxpayers from more inefficient wind farms, which also blight the countryside."

She argued that they only generated energy a third of the time, and had a limited life span.

"I think solar panels are a good op-

tion for renewable energy. There has just been a solar farm installed in Aylesford.

"I've also always supported waste to energy incineration."

She added: "There's been criticism about us not been green, but that's not the case. If we're going to pay for such projects we have to make sure they are value for money instead of paying for inefficient technology."

But Medway's Labour party said it was concerned by Ms Crouch and Mr Reckless' anti-onshore views.

Spokesman for regeneration Cllr Glyn Griffiths said: "Wind technology is an important component of the UK's energy mix as we seek to reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels.

"With onshore wind production being technically easier and therefore cheaper than offshore, there must be a role for it in the right locations.

"Support for wind production is particularly important in this part of Kent given that the international



VALUE FOR MONEY: The letter says that onshore wind farms are inefficient and a blight on the countryside, claiming subsidies would be better spent elsewhere

wind technology company Vestas is opening a new facility in Sheerness with the intention of employing up to 2,000 people, as it increases its production of wind power.

"Opposition from local Tory MPs to onshore wind generation could place those new jobs in jeopardy."

But Ms Crouch argued that Vestas' manufacturing facility was for the offshore wind market and would not impact onshore.

Shepway Green Party also criticised the Tory MPs for opposing onshore wind farms.

Spokesman Martin Whybrow said: "Plenty of studies have concluded that we can meet our energy needs through renewables, as Germany is planning to do. A major push for renewables should be combined with greatly improved energy efficiency and reduced high carbon activities in areas such as transport."

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CARE

Last-minute hope for future of disabled care centre

By Marijke Cox

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A DAY care centre for disabled adults has won an 11th hour reprieve on the decision over its future.

It follows the submission of a new proposal from Medway Community Healthcare to continue the work of the Balfour Centre, which is at risk of being shut down as part of an overhaul of adult social care services by Medway Council.

The Rochester centre provides support for adults with disabilities.

The bid came just as the eight-week consultation into its future ended. Medway Council officers will now need time to explore the viability of the proposal.

The council announced plans to close the centre in November, following a drop in the number of people using the facility, and a consultation was launched mid-December.

Outsourcing of Nelson Court residential home in Chatham, Robert Bean Lodge in Rochester and Platters Farm Lodge in Rainham was also being looked



at as part of the proposals.

At Wednesday's cabinet meeting, members agreed to sell Nelson Court and outsource the two other residential homes.

Members said the homes were too expensive to run and it was cheaper for them to be come independent.

Commenting on the last-minute proposal for the Balfour

Centre, Medway Council's portfolio holder for adult services, Cllr David Brake, said: "Throughout this consultation we've been very keen to hear the views from all parties,



CONSULTATION: Cllr David Brake says the council will now consider the proposal to keep the Balfour Centre open

which has allowed this proposal to come forward.

"We now need time to consider very carefully this proposal from Medway Community Healthcare and check to see whether it's a viable option for the people who use the centre, for staff and for the council."

Managing director of Medway Community Healthcare Martin Riley said the organisation was keen to work with the

council to look at the feasibility of supporting the ongoing work of the centre.

"Before agreeing any long-term commitments we must first take a detailed look at the practical requirements needed to provide the service and ensure the needs of local people will be met both now and into the future," he said.

Medway Labour Party said while they welcomed the 11th hour reprieve, the decision has not yet been made.

Labour Cllr Vince Maple said: "We welcome this option, but we shouldn't be complacent or celebrate until we know the centre will definitely stay open."

"The service is a good community facility and dozens of people would be affected if it closed, including families, carers and staff."

He added: "The council agreed to outsource the other homes and that's not the right move. We're currently working towards calling a special council meeting to look at this whole issue."

"We will do everything we can. We think having in-house care is a good thing."

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SUPPORT: Kent Savers aims to help those struggling to pay for the expensive costs of a funeral

DEBT

Credit union action as people struggle to pay funeral costs

By Chris Murphy

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AS personal debts rise, saving for things like funeral costs are being ignored and some of those left behind are finding it increasingly hard to come up with the minimum of £2,000 to pay for services.

But help is at hand in the shape of Kent Savers, a credit union that has launched a pilot scheme in the county with firms like John Weir Funeral Directors, which has offices in Chatham, Gillingham and Rainham.

Funeral directors in Kent who are members of the National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors, known as SAIF, have been chosen to launch the scheme to provide financial assistance for those who are struggling to pay for a funeral.

They will work with Kent Savers, which is a not-for-profit organisation devoted to providing financial services to the people of Kent and Medway.

Kent Savers delivers loans at especially reasonable rates to those in need and is dedicated to reducing exploitation by illegal and high cost lenders.

Its chief officer John Fowler said: "Those who are in distress due to the death of a loved one are especially vulnerable.

"We want to assure them they are safe and treated fairly. We are delighted to be working in partnership with SAIF."

John Weir: "We are very aware that some people faced with having to make funeral arrangements are very concerned about the costs involved. Hopefully our members working in conjunction with Kent Savers will be able to provide additional support to the bereaved in these difficult economic times."

He said the lowest cost funeral these days is around £2,000, and because many people are already struggling to cope with bills, any consideration given to funeral costs is simply put to the back of the mind.

Mr Weir said: "There are other ways of getting help.

"The Department for Work and Pensions do pick up some of the cost of a funeral, but there are lots of hoops to jump through. Eligibility is a minefield but it is possible.

"Someone paying for a funeral could then borrow the balance from Kent Savers.

"Or they could borrow all the money from Kent Savers at a very reasonable interest rate, which is better than going to some loan companies that can charge massive rates."

Local councils also have an obligation to carry out funerals under the 1984 Public Health Act, said Mr Weir.

Kent Savers said a typical £2,000 loan over two years for someone with a good credit rating would be repaid at around £99 per month at a rate of 18.72 per cent. That could go down to as low as £50 per month over five years.

Visit www.kentsavers.co.uk for more information or to arrange a quote.

COURT

Mum-of-three falsely claimed £3,000 benefit

EMMA Body, 33, of White Road, Chatham, has been found guilty of falsely claiming more than £3,000 in benefits while failing to declare that her husband was working. The married mother-of-three was charged with falsely claiming council tax benefit and income support.

She was investigated by officers from the Department of Work and Pensions, and Medway Council in a joint operation.

ARTS

Crime writers offering a thrilling opportunity

SCRIPTWRITER and author Danny Miller will host a scriptwriters' workshop at Strood Library Hall on Thursday, March 1, at 3pm. Later that day he will be joined by author Emlyn Rees for talk at Rochester Community Hub, entitled Under Investigation – Crime and Thriller Writing to discuss the differences between crime and thriller writing. Both events are free but booking is essential on 01634 337411.

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TRIBUTE

Stars to celebrate life of Kent's favourite entertainer Dave Lee

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SHOWBIZ friends of popular funnyman Dave Lee are hosting a special show to celebrate their much-loved friend.

The comedian and panto star lost his battle with pancreatic cancer last month, aged 64.

More than 1,000 people turned out for his funeral at Canterbury Cathedral with heartfelt and funny eulogies from showbiz friends including entertainer Richard Digance and comedian Bobby Davro, alongside Dave's daughter Debbie Glew.

Producer and director of the Marlowe pantomimes Paul Hendy also paid tribute.

Now Hendy is organising a show, Dave Lee – A Celebration, to mark the life of the Canterbury comedian and is inviting some of Dave's entertainer friends to take to the stage where he most loved to be.

"The show will be a fitting tribute to Dave's wonderful ca-

reer, reflecting the many different aspects of it – including music, stand-up comedy and, of course, panto," said Hendy. "Lots of his pals have said they'd love to take part. It will be a great evening that Dave would have been proud of."

The Marlowe has not yet confirmed who will be performing in the show, but Dave had a long list of friends in the industry, including Jim Davidson, Bradley Walsh, Joe Pasquale and Bobby Davro.

Many of them took part in Dave's annual celebrity golf day at Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden, raising money for Dave Lee's Happy Holidays charity, which sends sick and underprivileged children on trips of a lifetime.

All the money raised through the show will go to the charity.

Dave performed at The Marlowe more than 1,000 times over 16 years, with his trademark bench sketch played out at his funeral by young choir boys in a special tribute.

The shows were so popular fans would camp outside the Canterbury theatre the night before so as not to miss out on tickets. Dave would provide bacon butties and hot drinks.

Dave Lee – A Celebration is on Sunday, May 6, at 7pm. Tickets are £35 and go on sale from Friday, February 24.

The Box Office at The Marlowe Theatre will be open from 9am for customers wishing to book in person or call 01227 787787. There will be no on-line bookings.

Dave had three children, Darren, 44, Debbie, 42, and Justin, 40, and six grandchildren. He lost his wife Linda four years ago to cancer.

While best known for his comedy and panto, Dave started his career as a drummer and singer and had several records released. He went on to form his own comedy show band, acting as both lead singer and impressionist.

But it was a chance meeting with Eric Morecambe that

changed his life forever.

Eric had watched Dave perform with his group and advised him to start a solo career as a comedian or actor, which Dave went on to do.

■ More news is at www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.



PANTO: Dave Lee unveiling a plaque in his honour at the Marlowe

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News

CINEMA

Star Watts lined up to play people's princess

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT-BORN Hollywood star Naomi Watts has been chosen to play Princess Diana in a big-screen retelling of her turbulent final two years.

Princess Diana's death in a Paris underpass car smash shocked the world, but she had been making headlines for years, not least within her love life and her failed marriage to Prince Charles.

Now Watts will take on what could be her most challenging role ever in a film being made later this year.

But German director Oliver Hirschbiegel is determined the biopic will be a winner thanks to the warmth, humanity and empathy he says Watts will bring to the role.

Called *Caught in Flight*, it will be filmed in Britain by the director of *Downfall*, about Adolf Hitler's last days.

Shoreham-born Ms Watts,



ON SCREEN: Naomi Watts will portray people's princess, Diana

43, said: "It is such an honour to be able to play this iconic role – Princess Diana was loved across the world and I look forward to the challenge."

Following the death of her father, Pink Floyd sound engineer Peter Watts, in 1976, her Welsh mother, Myfanwy, took 14-year-old Naomi and brother Ben to Australia. Enrolling in acting lessons, she was a classmate of Nicole Kidman.

She has said: "I consider myself British and have very happy memories of the UK."

Watts has specialised in low budget arty films such as *Mulholland Drive*, but also block-

busters including *King Kong*.

It is expected the film will tackle some of the conspiracy theories behind the death of Diana and her boyfriend Dodi Fayed, son of former Harrods owner Mohamed Al Fayed.

They were killed in an early morning single-car smash on August 31, 1997. An inquest was finally heard between October, 2007, and April, 2008, where a jury decided they were unlawfully killed by a combination of the driving of their chauffeur, Henri Paul, and the driving of following vehicles.

The inquest heard from 278 witnesses and was estimated to have cost £6.5 million.

Ecosse Films said it wants to chronicle the final years of Diana's life and "how finding true personal happiness for the first time allowed her to achieve her defining successes, evolving into a major international campaigner and humanitarian".

■ **Read more news at** www.yoursevenoaks.co.uk.

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*There are top up prices for a £10 ticket, other vehicles and seating included here.

News

HEALTH

Lost for words – NHS runs up £500,000 bill for translation

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

HEALTH chiefs in Kent spent more than £500,000 on translation services in the last three years, according to a report.

While the study by independent think-tank 2020 Health took into account the crucial need for interpreters in hospitals, it criticised the NHS for the lack of a centralised database of translated documents, such as health information leaflets.

Instead, it claimed, NHS Trusts were translating their own material, replicating work carried out across the country.

Chief executive of 2020 Health Julia Manning said more than £20 million was spent nationally last year on translation within the NHS.

She said: "The costs involved are staggering. Urgent action must be taken to stem the flow of translation costs."

The biggest spender in Kent



COMMUNICATION: Patients need to understand their doctor

was East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, spending £122,404 last year, rising from £78,458 in 2009-10 and £35,415 in 2008-09. Medway NHS Foundation Trust spent £68,094 last year, then £24,742 and £24,384. Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust spent £34,600 this year, £54,000 and £51,000 previously. Other Kent trusts saw significantly lower spending or did not respond to 2020 Health's Freedom of Information request.

A spokeswoman for Medway

NHS Foundation Trust said: "Not only do patients need to understand details about their care, they also need to have the opportunity to ask questions and to receive a response."

"We are unable to rely on patients bringing an English speaking companion to hospital, so we hold a list of staff who speak foreign languages to be called upon to assist doctors."

Watchdog 2020 Health said creating a central storeroom of translated information would remove the need for trusts to translate their own materials.

A spokeswoman from the Taxpayers' Alliance said there would always be a need for interpretation, particularly for people visiting the UK who needed emergency treatment.

But she said taxpayers would be shocked at the amount spent: "They expect their money to be going towards treatment for sick people, not on language services."

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TOURISM

Leisure show offers you the chance to visit

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A COMPANY offering the chance to visit the historic Somme area of France – the setting for the climax to Steven Spielberg's epic film *War Horse* – will be one of the main features of this year's highly anticipated Travel and Leisure Show.

The Archant KOS Media event takes place at the Dover Cruise Terminal on the weekend of March 10-11 and will feature tour promoters, cruise operators, hotels, holiday companies, travel agents and visitor attractions.

This year's show will see a special French Zone, which will highlight the country's unique culture and history, its attractions, and world class food and drink.

And among this year's exhibitors



will be the Somme Battlefields Partnership, which stages visits to the scene of one of the most bloody battles ever fought.

Nowadays the area is an attractive mix of woodland, farms and small villages, but the Battle of the Somme, from July to November 1916, symbolised the horrors of war in the trenches.

By the end of the battle, the British Army had suffered 420,000 casualties including nearly 60,000

on the first day alone. The French lost 200,000 men and the Germans nearly 500,000.

For months the French had been taking severe losses at Verdun, east of Paris, so Allied High Command decided to attack the Germans to the north of Verdun, therefore requiring them to move some of their men away, relieving the French.

However the battle turned into a bloodbath with no breakthrough – and the British cavalry redundant in the rear.

British casualties on the first day were 20,000 dead and more than 35,000 wounded – more than any army in any war on a single day.

The soldiers at the Somme were not conscripts – they were volunteers, who had flocked to join up in response to Secretary of State for War Lord Herbert Kitchener's 'Your country needs you' poster.



Men from the same town served together in the same regiment and were killed together. Friends and brothers died side by side, some villages lost all their young men in the same battle.

By August, questions were beginning to be asked as Prime Minister Lloyd George lost confidence in his commander Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig.

At the front, morale also began to fall. Soldiers were shot for 'cowardice', as troops reached the limit of their endurance.

Lloyd George called the battle: "The most gigantic, tenacious,



grim, futile and bloody fight ever waged in the history of war."

The sequences in *War Horse* show the animal trapped in No Man's Land between the opposing armies – but freed by a British and German soldier working together.

As the horse – named Joey – arrives back at the British lines and is reunited with Devon farmboy turned soldier Albert Narracott (Jeremy Irvine) it is regarded as a

DEADLY: War Horse tells the tale of a horse during the horrific Battle of the Somme

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scene of epic war film



Picture: ANDREW COOPER, DREAMWORKS

symbol of hope amidst the carnage. Spielberg actually filmed the Somme sequences in pouring rain on a disused airfield in Surrey, but the region expects a summer influx of tourists to see the true sights of the battlefield.

A spokesman from The Historical, Museum of the Great War, in Peronné, said: "Although the area is beautiful and peaceful now, the scale of the Battle of the Somme can be seen in the traces that it has left – trenches, craters, shattered vegetation and villages wiped out.

"You can discover the history of this battle by visiting the memorials, battlefield sites and cemeteries in the Somme region, many of which are included on a dedicated route, The Circuit of Remembrance, linking Albert and Peronné."

Other French exhibitors will include the holiday coastal town of Berck, historic St Omer and Arras, the busy port of Dunkerque, which has great significance from World War Two, while the Flavours of France section will highlight the produce of the area – including its award winning wines, cheeses, fruit and ciders.

■ For more details, see www.thetravelandleisureshow.co.uk.

STORY: The film is based on the book by Michael Morpurgo

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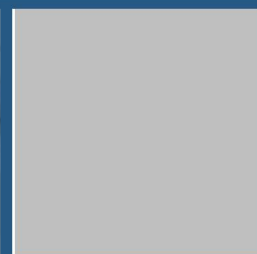
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UNEMPLOYMENT

Medway sees rise in number of people forced on to dole queue

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE jobless total in Kent and Medway soared last month with almost 1,500 more people joining the dole queue.

Statistics released for January show 1,498 people swelled the ranks of the unemployed across the county – three times higher than December's figure.

The Office for National Statistics says the figure on Jobseeker's Allowance for the county is now 37,713.

A major factor in the increase was the 350 workers who lost their jobs in Sheerness after Thamesteel went into administration, which contributed to Swale's unemployed rising by 192 to 3,626.

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) say figures could even be higher as analysts were unsure whether the full number of job losses at the steel plant had been incorporated into the available statistics.

Overall Maidstone was the

worst hit area with 325 more people out of work, making its total 2,611. Medway's jobless rose by 269 to 7,416, while Dover saw another 134 jobless making a total of 2,735.

In Canterbury the jobless figure increased by 131 to 2,582 and in Thanet by 130 to 4,897.

The number of unemployed in Gravesham rose by 114 to 2,843, while Ashford increased by 102 to 2,036.

Dartford's jobless increased by 97 to 1,974, while Sevenoaks rose by 83 to 1,388.

Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells recorded increases of 75 to 1,583 and 53 to 1,189 respectively.

The least affected area was Shepway, whose number rose by 25, taking its total to 2,833.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "The increase in unemployment is clearly disappointing and the jobs market is likely to be challenging for the remainder of the year.

"Our figures show that small

firms are actually looking to shed staff. The Government has announced some good initiatives to tackle unemployment, but we now need to see these put into action."

A total of 25 per cent of respondents to the FSB autumn Kent Small Business Barometer recorded a reduction in staffing; only one in five had increase the number of people employed.

But the FSB has welcomed an announcement by Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg that small businesses in Kent and Medway can access cash to help cover the cost of taking on fresh talent through a 'wage subsidy'.

The subsidy will be paid to companies for taking on young unemployed people and is designed to cover costs like National Insurance contributions.

Mr House added: "Wage incentives for businesses that take on apprentices are welcome, especially to tackle youth unemployment that now sits at more than a million.

"We need to see changes to employment tribunals to encourage firms to employ new workers.

"This needs to be bolstered by other measures such as ensuring access to the Youth Contract, Work Trials and the New Enterprise Allowance Scheme from day one of signing on for Jobseeker's Allowance.

"We encourage the Chancellor to bring forward these measures at the Budget and build the basis for a sustainable, jobs-led recovery."

Medway's Labour group said approximately 11 people applying for every job vacancy.

Cllr Vince Maple, deputy leader of the Labour group said: "It is sad to see that yet again in Medway unemployment has continued to rise. The Government's economic plans have hit too far and too fast, and the damage to Medway is clear.

"The local Tories have done little to help the situation, and there are simply not enough jobs to go around."



SIGN OF THE TIMES: There are now 7,416 jobless people in Medway



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ALL ABOARD: A variety of specialist vehicles will be on show at the 10th Medway Festival of Steam

EVENT

Festival prepares to let off steam for 10th anniversary

By Chris Murphy
editorial@archant.co.uk

FANS of old-time transport will get the chance to let off steam at the Historic Dockyard Chatham when a major festival gets under way.

Now in its 10th year, organisers are concentrating this year's Medway Festival of Steam and Transport on railways.

Joining the varied assortment of specialist vehicles, there will be a new Steampunk village, a folk and blues music stage, and an Airfix 'make-and-take' activity.

Of course, those in the know will guess the dockyard's own locomotive Ajax will be on show, along with the 1895 Aveling & Porter 'Sydenham' and 1936 Peckett.

There is also a guest engine Victory, an ex-dockyard locomotive returning to Chatham on one of its first outings following extensive restoration.

Dockyard spokeswoman Gail James said: "The event provides a unique opportunity to see these two ex-dockyard locomotives in steam alongside each other again in Chatham, their original working location."

She added: "Steampunk is a creative social movement that draws inspiration from Victorian and pre-war history in an old-fashioned mix of



science fiction, modern values and a sense of fun.

"The Steampunk village will introduce this colourful and imaginative world with traders offering Steampunk fashions, accessories, gadgets, books and music together with an exhibition of Steampunk art."

A covered slip will be home for an interactive ModelZONE where all kinds of transport miniatures will be on display including planes, trains, automobiles and even boats.

Ms James said: "An exciting new feature for 2012 will be an Airfix 'make-and-take' activity section where visitors young and old will be able to make a model to take home.

"With hundreds of vehicles on display including traction engines, classic and vintage cars and motorbikes, emergency services, commercial and military vehicles, buses and coaches it is easy to see why the Medway Festival of Steam and Transport event is a firm favourite in the calendar for all age groups, whether transport enthusiasts or families looking for a fun day out at Easter."

Medway Festival of Steam and Transport takes place at the Historic Dockyard Chatham on Easter Sunday and Monday, April 8-9.

■ Read all the very latest news and sport headlines at www.yourmedwayw.co.uk.



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News

Picture: ALASTAIR MUIR



STRIKING: The Jasmin Vardimon Company has made its name by using unique dance and technology

ARTS

A step in right direction for town as renowned dance troupe moves in

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

AN internationally renowned dance group has moved to Ashford.

The Jasmin Vardimon Company has created a production space at the Stour Centre.

The company, formed by Jasmin Vardimon in 1997, has made its name staging theatrical dance performances incorporating modern technology and new choreography techniques to create a unique style.

The Israeli-born choreographer has been an associate artist at Sadler's Wells since 2006.

The company hopes its new creative home will be a hub for dance in the South East and will build links with the wider community.

The production space will house three strands of the company: a rehearsal and performance space; a professional development certificate for dancers; and a centre for artistic research.

Picture: TRISTRAM KENTON



The company's dancers are moving to the town to be closer for rehearsals. The group also hopes to attract other international artists to the space.

It hopes to premier its latest work at the Stour Centre in October after it finishes touring.

Ms Vardimon said: "There will be performances here both from us and other artists and there will be a lot of education work and activities that will be open to the community."

Clr Bernard Heyes, portfolio holder for culture and recreation, said: "Jasmin Vardimon is international, they are successful and they're going to help put Ashford on the map."

He said this was the first step towards a new cultural quarter being developed in Ashford, adding: "Jasmine Vardimon is going to have connections with the new K College and links with schools as part of its education programme. There is no end to the potential."

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www.yourashford.co.uk.

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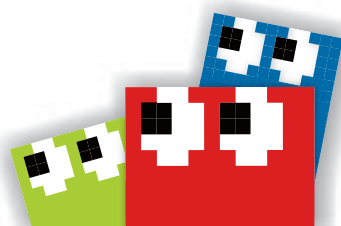
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CHARITY

Near-death experience on Mt Kilimanjaro inspires climber to aid life-saving porters

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

A WOMAN who nearly died on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro has set up a charity to support the porters who helped save her life.

Geri Carden, from Sevenoaks, was climbing the mountain in Africa with a group of friends last year when she suffered a massive cerebral oedema, a severe and often fatal form of altitude sickness.

She said: "I collapsed close to the summit and was taken off the mountain very quickly by the porters. They saved my life.

"They are selfless. They got me down the mountain before my brain exploded.

"They literally drag people down as quickly as they can, often hurting themselves doing so, twisting ankles and breaking legs in the process. They put their lives at risk for so little."

After recovering the climber,



TOUGH: Geri Carden (right) was saved by Kilimanjaro porters after suffering severe altitude sickness

along with some of her friends, decided to start the Kilimanjaro Care Foundation.

With a background in business the trustees decided the best way to help the local people in Tanzania was through

basic advice and help about commerce. They earn very little money and live in terrible conditions that fall below the UN poverty line and there is little education.

"We travelled back and did a



6699

They literally drag people down as quickly as they can, often hurting themselves doing so, twisting ankles and breaking legs in the process...

CARDEN, ON LOCAL PORTERS

thing they may make or own.

"We want to use local knowledge. We thought the best way is to give them know-how that can help them forever, so they can develop a different way of living and not have to climb a

mountain to feed their family."

The foundation plans to make a seven to 10-year commitment to the area.

By then it hopes the local people's business skills will be established enough to be passed throughout the community.

The charity is planning to arrange a fundraising trek across Tanzania in October to help raise funds for its projects.

Those taking part can either cycle for 360 miles or trek for eight days from the base of Kilimanjaro to the Indian Ocean to help raise money.

Ms Carden said: "You'll need to be fit to do it but we hope to raise £1,000 each.

"We can have a great experience, but we shouldn't forget the people there when we walk away."

■ **For further information about the Kilimanjaro Care Foundation visit www.kili-care.com or email info@kili-care.com**

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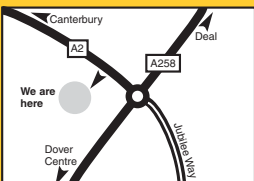
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- Loch Ness cruise

KENT REMEMBERED



DETECTIVE WORK: John Owen's new book is a revealing insight into how Shepherd Neame began

Story behind brewery's long-lost Shepherds

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE country's oldest brewer Shepherd Neame has been run by the Neame family for five generations – and now a local historian has discovered what happened to the Shepherds.

Following the discovery of two previously unknown ledgers, brewery archivist and former Lloyd's underwriter John Owen has written a new book: *The Shepherds of Shepherd Neame 1737-1875*.

"It tells the story of a class of people – who have largely disappeared from towns like Faversham – merchants and entrepreneurs," he said.

"There may not be the opportunities for people at present to follow what they achieved, but the evidence of their success is still in the town; you look at a large house from previous and times and think 'where did the money to build that come from?'"

Mr Owen used information from the ledgers and researched insurance policies and ecclesiastical records to reinstate the Shepherds in the historical record, marking their considerable achievements in the story of the brewery.

He said: "Fifteen years ago when the general history of the brewery was being compiled, I got access to the archives and did quite a lot of work on the old deeds."

"After I retired from the City I was asked to put the archives in order, and it was then I came across things which had not



FAMILIAR: Shepherd Neame has been a Kent favourite since 1698

come to light before. The two ledgers provided a wonderful insight into what happened.

"Through the shortages of the Napoleonic Wars to the coming of the railways, each generation consolidated trade and seized opportunities for growth in staff, equipment and property, consistently outperforming rival brewers."

The book tells the story of how Samuel Shepherd, John Shepherd, Julius Shepherd, Henry Shepherd and Henry Shepherd Junior ran the business and made it prosper.

Originating from Peasmarsh, Sussex, in the 16th century, the Shepherd family acquired the brewery by marriage in 1732.

It was officially worth £1,000, but in two generations they had become one of the wealthiest merchant families in Faversham.

Within four generations, in 1875, they were joint partners in the brewery which had a value of £165,000.

The family had formed business partnerships with Charles Jones Hilton, John Henry Mares and Percy Beale Neame, but there is little evidence that Henry Shepherd planned for his family to continue as partners or that his children were interested in succeeding him.

In his will, written in 1868, there is no reference to the brewery and on July 30, 1877, Ellen Shepherd sold the half interest of her late husband to Percy Beale Neame.

The Shepherd family ceased to have any interest in the brewery and no member of the Shepherd family ever again lived in Faversham.

With the exception of the surname, retained in the company name, little evidence of the family and its activities survived.

Nearly all the business records of the early Shepherds disappeared; the ledgers, cash books, rest books, waste books, brewing books and correspondence. All the early deeds of the brewery site were lost during the Napoleonic Wars, when a mortgagee buried them for safe keeping and later discovered they had rotted away.

But now the family contribution to a business which is synonymous with Faversham – and Kent – has been recognised in print.

■ *The Shepherds of Shepherd Neame 1737-1875*, price £13.45, is available from the Shepherd Neame Visitor Centre shop, online at www.shepherdneame.co.uk/shop and at bookshops in the Faversham area.



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OPINION

Benefits reform will only work using reason and compassion

As debate rages over the proposed changes to our welfare system the Bishop of Tonbridge, the **Right Reverend Dr Brian Castle**, says rule changes must be made on the basis of justice rather than fairness...

THERE is a saying in Africa that when the elephants fight it's the grass that gets trampled.

This is precisely what is happening in the debate about benefits which is being argued with slogans and prejudice rather than reason and compassion.

Those many people who are genuine recipients in the spirit that William Beveridge originally introduced the welfare system are being demonised alongside, and because of, those who, we are told, are gaining unreasonable amounts of funding from the system.

But the language in which the debate is couched as well as the need to take account of

those trapped in wealth also have to be borne in mind.

People can be trapped in poverty and dependency for a variety of reasons and they need help to be released from this trap.

Some, through circumstances beyond their control, maybe brought about by harsh personal circumstances or the fierce economic climate, will need the safety net of the welfare system.

On the other hand many may have no desire to take opportunities to be released, in which case the public purse cannot be expected to sustain them unless there are compelling reasons for doing so.

As the row over large pay differentials and inflated bonuses shows, people can also be trapped in wealth.

The Bible is more critical of the rich than of the poor – this is not from the perspective of envy, but out of concern for their ultimate well-being and from the damage that their wealth can inflict on their neighbours and society as a whole.

One of the reasons we are facing the present financial crisis is not because of the poor, but because of the rich.

A way of helping both rich and poor from their traps is for society to affirm people and their potential above wealth and acquisitiveness.



“““

The Bible is more critical of the rich than of the poor

The argument of 'fairness' is common today. Many would argue for a reform of the benefits system on the basis of fairness; this would be a mistake.

It should, instead, be reformed on the basis of justice.

Fairness is a judgement about right and wrong when everybody starts from a level playing field: justice has morality at its heart and acknowledges the inequalities in society.

There are strong arguments for an overhaul of the benefits system just as there are strong arguments for an overhaul of differentials and bonuses, but let them be undertaken on the basis of justice rather than fairness.

KOS COMMENT

Save water, and start doing your rain dance

AS A country renowned for its often miserable weather, it's surprising to learn that we have in fact missed out on the dreaded rain for two winters.

With the exception of the odd downpour, Kent in particular has seen so little there is now threat of a drought.

We seem to have been so concerned about potential snowfall, we forgot about the rain. Living in the UK, it's so easy to take for granted easy access to water – you turn on a tap and it's there.

Our idea of drought may be different to other countries, but if we want to avoid compulsory restrictions on the amount of water we use as well as staggering prices, we need to start being careful – and start doing a rain dance while we're at it.

Dave still raises a smile

IF YOU didn't already know that Dave Lee was one of the most popular people in Kent, then you will now.

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Fight to save our woodlands

I REALLY enjoy walking in Blean woods. I love it because it makes me feel healthy and refreshed being amongst the trees and wild flowers.

It is good for me, others, nature and the environment. It has been almost a year since the secretary of state bowed to public pressure and put on hold proposals to sell England's Forestry Estate.

An independent panel was set up to look at the future of all forests in England and, along with the ramblers, I'm worried that people think the battle has been won and our woodland walks are safe for future generations.

The panel is busy gathering information for its final report in the spring. I welcome its initial recommendation that forests currently owned by the Forestry Commission should remain publicly owned, with

a high level of public access.

However, Forestry Commission land only accounts for 18 per cent of English woodlands and I think this is a golden opportunity for the panel to look at the other 82 per cent and truly put public access at the heart of forestry policy in England.

I would be very grateful if you could publish this letter so that your readers can see that we still need to fight for a future of woodland walking.

**Florence Deadman,
Davington**

All Boris' talk is plane stupid

RECENT action by members of the Government meeting with organisations supporting the plans for a four-runway airport on the Hoo Peninsula, shows London Mayor Boris Johnson is starting to panic about his chances of being re-elected in May.

The voters in the west of

London, even places miles from Heathrow, are worried about noise and disturbance and they are prepared to protest by refusing to vote. They are calling the tune to Mayor Johnson, but the Tory establishment is getting behind him.

We know how bad the M25, from M3 to the M40 passing Heathrow can be, and since the designs for the new airport are twice the size of Heathrow our roads will be permanently blocked.

A four-runway airport cannot have all incoming and outgoing planes using just one approach route.

All of Kent and Medway will suffer noise and disturbance just like the whole of west London does today.

A smaller version of this scheme was rejected from the 2002 SERAS report into air travel by the then-Labour government. It found that Hoo Peninsula was not a viable location for London's airport, yet the report seems to have been ignored.

Maybe Mayor Johnson can find wealthy bankers to fund it so then anything is possible, but this government's review should come to the same conclusions as the last one.

I am pleased to see our MPs in Medway have written to the Government, but I doubt that will be enough.

They seem to be treating this issue with kid gloves; perhaps they are careful not to do anything to discredit Boris this close to an election.

We will have to do what we did last time – protest, hold public meetings and make a complete nuisance of ourselves just as Plane Stupid did just before the last election, to ensure Medway is taken as seriously as west London.

**Derek Munton, chair
Rochester and Strood
Labour Party**

Cold snaps to be expected

ONCE again Phil Grainger

(Letters, last week) fails to understand that man-made climate change is the cause of the colder than usual weather across Europe and the UK.

As far back as 2001, Nasa scientists in the USA were predicting that this could happen once Arctic winter sea ice cover started to reduce.

In the last few years this has been shown to be happening and so we are beginning to get the cold snaps which match the computer models.

Indeed, the US National Snow and Ice Data Centre in early February, 2012, reported that winter sea ice remains lower than usual and may be contributing to the formation of huge high pressure systems over Northern Siberia which are sending cold air across us.

Since such scientific reports and analysis have been reported across the media recently I'm surprised Mr Grainger remains unaware. Presumably he's also

unaware of reports at the end of last year that show large methane plumes – a gas 20 times as potent for global warming than CO2 – in the Arctic ocean off Eastern Siberia, and which are of growing concern to climatologists because such may well help speed up climate change overall.

It is true though that our (mostly Western until recently) overuse and over reliance on fossil fuels, has been a major cause of this and that increasing population and industrialisation may exacerbate things.

However, this can be addressed by a substantial change to our social and economic systems towards far more equitable ones along with green and renewable energy production.

Recently many of the world's top financial institutions have called for a change away from austerity policies, that are threatening social cohesion, towards green and other infrastructure initiatives as a way of dealing with deficits.

Much more than this would be required though, but in my view it is at present only the world's Green parties and some others who stand ready to implement such action.

**Ray Duff,
Folkestone**

Put railway in public's hands

THE recent controversy over bonus payments for senior managers at Network Rail shows that the situation could have been dealt with earlier, and the decision to forgo the bonuses will not mean the issue will go away.

The Co-op Party has been campaigning over the past few years for Network Rail to be turned into a mutual and some of your readers will no doubt recall being offered leaflets outside stations that resembled train tickets.

We believe that Network Rail should be owned and controlled by the public – a situation if it got the go ahead that would mean that pay and reward would be decided by public agreement.

Please visit our campaign site at <http://peoplesrail.org.uk/take-action/>.

**Sid Pollitt, chair,
Kent Co-operative Party**

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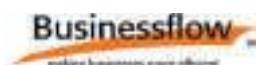
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Government urged to 'think small first' to aid recovery

Small to medium enterprises are the lifeblood of a thriving economy as they employ and trade locally. With commitment to an area or town, they are less likely to relocate, taking jobs and money elsewhere, than a large company. The Federation of Small Businesses across Kent and Medway has been active in promoting the interests of its members and so benefiting the county as a whole. This week **Nick Ames** take a look at the challenges – and the opportunities – it faces as well as featuring how MPs are backing business.

AS SMALL firms look to shed more staff, the Government must be bolder to help incentivise job-creation, says the county's branch of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB).

New figures from the federation show that small businesses across the UK will look to shed staff in the first three months of 2012 as it warns that the Government needs to be bolder in its changes to existing employment law to incentivise employment.

A survey by the FSB – the 'Voice of Small Business' Index – showed that a balance of 4.8 per cent of small businesses reduced their headcount in the three months from October to December – slightly less than businesses had expected.

In Kent and Medway the FSB Small Business Barometer reported 25 per cent of business responding to the survey had reduced their staffing over a 12-month period. Only 19 per cent had increased their staffing levels.

With heavy cuts in the public sector and a rise in the number of people unemployed in Kent and Medway, more job losses by small businesses would make for an extremely difficult labour market.

With unemployment statistics increasing, the FSB is urging the Government to "think small first" when it responds to the Modern Workplaces consultation.

The FSB is specifically calling for:

- Micro firms to be made exempt from the extension of the right to request flexible working for all.
- A complete and simplified reform of maternity and paternity leave.
- A micro business exemption from proposals on pay audits which will require employers who lose an employment tribunal case to carry out a potentially costly, time-consuming and complex pay audit.

Small-business confidence fell at the end of 2011 as businesses were hit by high inflation, rising utility bills and reduced spending. So the FSB is calling on the Government to act on policies and initiatives already announced to help boost small-business confidence so that they can invest during the coming year.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "The beginning of 2012 is beginning to look bleak, with confidence incredibly low and businesses looking to shed staff.

"However, things do not need to be so negative. If the Government makes the right choices and puts action into words we can turn this around. The Government has a good chance to

MP shows his support



SITTINGBOURNE and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson, who has stated his commitment to supporting local businesses, made a visit to Carousel Logistics – Swale Business of the Year 2011.

The Sittingbourne logistics company, which was established in 1984, designs, implements and distribution and warehousing for a range of companies.

Mr Henderson, second left, was given a tour of the head office and warehouse by brothers Graham (managing director) and Michael (business development director) Martin.

Michael said: "It was great to have the chance to talk directly with Mr Henderson and show him the contribution that businesses like Carousel are making to the local economy and community.

"I am delighted our local MP is taking the time to listen to and show his support for local businesses."

During the tour they discussed issues affecting businesses in Sittingbourne. Top of the agenda was the local road infrastructure and the much-specified airport developments in the South East.

Mr Henderson said: "It is important to listen to the needs and concerns of the local business community in the current economic climate and I will continue to work closely with all businesses, whatever size or form, through my Sittingbourne and Sheppey Link 2 Business website."

make a real difference to the livelihoods of small firms when it reports on the Modern Workplaces consultation.

"Tinkering and increasing existing employment laws will only serve to worsen this situation. But by putting simple measures in place – such as excluding micro firms from the right to

Don't target the SMEs

THE Federation of Small Businesses has written to all local authorities in Kent and Medway calling on councils to undertake, as part of their 2012-13 budget, an impact assessment before imposing higher charges and licence fees on their small businesses.

Local authorities are currently adding the last touches to their budgets, which will be presented in the coming weeks.

These charges are certain to be targets for cash-generation, but the temptation to use local small and micro businesses as a source of income must be resisted, the federation argues.

At the very least, local authorities must introduce a rigorous impact-assessment regime to ensure options are considered and fully-informed decisions made by councillors, says the group.

Such assessments should consider the cumulative effect of charge increases, rather than viewing each one in isolation. This must reveal the effect such changes have had, or will have, on local businesses to quantify and justify that there will be an overall net gain to the local community.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "With the decisions made by local authorities when setting budgets having such a major impact on the local economy, especially in the current economic climate, the FSB has written to the leaders and chief executives of Kent's county, unitary and district councils to ensure that their budget will not undermine the sustainability of local small businesses.

"Whether it is the cost of car-parking in a town centre, a statutory licence or the charge made for submitting a planning application, there is an impact on the local economy from that charge and the FSB is keen to work with local councils to keep those costs as low as possible to support local firms."



request flexible working for all – will help free businesses from the shackle of red tape so they can grow, innovate and take on more staff."

CONCERNED: FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, Roger House

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TV celebrity returns to home town to open unique new nursing home

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

A RED carpet would not have looked out of place at the new Signature Mirimar care home in Herne Bay as a top TV presenter rolled up to open the business's new complex.

BBC1 star Nicki Chapman, who has recently been filming *Escape To The Country*, was on hand to cut the ribbon at the unique centre.

Set on the former Mirimar Hotel site, the new 77-room nursing home offers a special way of living for elderly people in need of care.

General manager Marlene Snodgrass said: "We have a very different model of care here, where people can rent an apartment.

"It is an inclusive rent that includes all of their food, utilities, council tax, laundry and house-keeping. If the individual then needs care on top, that is charged as an extra.

"It is a bit like pay as you go – you only pay for the care you use and need. It is bespoke care within an assisted-living complex."

Unlike many homes, elderly couples can also live together within the same apartment, and each person will have their care needs tailored to them.

The launch was to unveil phase two of the building, which includes 25 apartments, featuring a bedroom big enough for two people if needed, a kitchen-diner area, lounge and wet room. Each apartment has a small patio area or balcony, or it looks out on to the sea or a sensory garden.

Former Pop Idol judge Chapman jumped at the chance to open the new home and revealed



STAR TURN: Chapman opens Signature Mirimar

her long history with the seaside town. "I have known the Mirimar for years, even when it was the old building," she said.

"I lived in Herne Bay until I was 19 and went to school at St Mary's in Whitstable before going to St Anselm's secondary school in Canterbury.

"My mother still lives in Herne Bay, as do my best friends and my godson, so I come down here

every couple of weeks. Herne Bay is my second home. I have judged the beach-hut competition in the summer, I have my face on the mural along the sea wall, I have even judged talent competitions at the bandstand.

"I am very much involved with Herne Bay."

Former right-hand woman to pop mogul Simon Fuller, Chapman sees 'the Bay' as a great place to raise a family or retire.

She said: "I can imagine myself coming back to Herne Bay. It is a great area, it is by the sea and yet still close to London.

"I am really proud of the place. I have happy memories of living here and, yeah, I would retire to Herne Bay."

Chapman has also been filming lifestyle show *Wanted Down Under* for the BBC and using her musical knowledge in a new role on the radio.

She said: "I have been sitting in for Vanessa Feltz on BBC Radio 2, so I have been very varied recently. I have been handing over to Chris Evans and I am doing about a week a month for the next six months. It's great because I get to choose what I want to play. Nothing too cheesy, though."

The Lord Major of Canterbury Ken Thomas was also on hand to mark the opening of the new home, but it was Herne Bay champion Chapman who cut the three-foot cake.

She said: "I think what the team at the Mirimar offer is fantastic. It is supported independent living, a new way of doing it.

"It is a beautiful building. People want their own independence, but there is a real community here as well. If you need after-care or nursing but want your independence as well, then this place has it."

Here comes Danielle... and she just hates red tape



By Nick Ames

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DANIELLE Stewart, Southern region partner at Baker Tilly, has been appointed by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills as one of its two company law red tape challenge champions.

Baker Tilly International is the world's eighth-largest accountancy and business advisory network by combined fee income of its independent members.

It is represented by 150 independent firms in 120 countries, with an income of £1.95 billion. Its Kent operation is based in Tunbridge Wells.

As a champion, Stewart, pictured, will:

- Review the suggestions made to BIS for areas where existing company law regulations could be streamlined or reduced.
- Ask additional questions of respondents where clarification is required.
- Represent these views (together with some ideas drawn from her own experience and contacts) to ministers in a 'star chamber', with a view to achieving meaningful reductions in red tape.

"I am very excited by the opportunity to be an official red tape challenge champion because I have been deeply involved in the development of better, more appropriate regulation since the early 90s," said Stewart.

"As a practising chartered accountant, I have often seen smaller businesses, in particular, struggle with the weight and complexity of bureaucracy applicable to them.

"In the UK we have led the world in the development of differential accounting standards – we already have a 'think small first' approach to company law embodied in the 2006 Companies Act.

"Against this backdrop, the red tape challenge represents an opportunity to go the final mile towards ensuring that every aspect of regulation applicable to UK companies is necessary, appropriate and as efficient as it can be."

The red tape challenge gives the public an opportunity to comment on the regulations applying to each specific sector of business, as well as on the general regulations applying across all sectors, with a view to reducing and simplifying those regulations.

Company law is a particularly large and diverse aspect of the challenge, in relation to which BIS has a clear objective, which is to ensure that the UK has a company law framework that gives companies the flexibility to compete and grow effectively.

MOTOR INDUSTRY

Car dealership takes carmaker's top award

A "RELENTLESS zeal" for customer service has earned Mercedes-Benz truck and van dealer Sparshatts of Kent the carmaker's most coveted award for members of its franchised network.

Sparshatts beat 20 other dealers nationwide to take the prestigious 2012 Mercedes-Benz Commercial Vehicle Dealer Of The Year title.

Sean Fitzpatrick, former captain of the New Zealand rugby union team, presented the trophy at a ceremony in Gaggenau, Germany, home of Mercedes-Benz's Unimog all-terrain truck.

Among those leading the applause as Sparshatts co-founder and chairman David Jones stepped up to collect the award were colleagues Andrew Sparshatt, Paul Rooney and Helen Jones, each of whom made the final three in, respectively, the categories for Dealer Principal Best Practice Practitioner, Used Vehicle Sales Manager and Dealer Marketeer.

Sparshatts was additionally nominated for the After Sales Dealer Of The Year prize.

It was Sparshatts' second Dealer Of The Year success, the company having won the same title in 1986, two years after it was introduced.

With headquarters in Sittingbourne and other dealerships in Ashford, Dartford and Tunbridge Wells, Sparshatts sells and supports the award-winning range of Mercedes-Benz commercial vehicles, as well as Fuso Canter light trucks.

One of the longest-serving members of the Mercedes-Benz UK dealer network, Sparshatts commenced trading with just nine employees in January 1975. Last year it sold 729 new and used trucks and vans and turned over £60.25 million.

FINANCE

Business banking now has a bit more App-eal

RBS and NatWest have announced that their RBS and NatWest Business Banking App for iPad, iPhone and iPad touch is now available on the Apple App Store.

Business customers are able to track and monitor multiple bank accounts, check balances, view transactions and make intra-account transfers. A 'near me' function provides addresses and opening hours of the nearest RBS or NatWest branch.

The introduction of the Business Banking App, which was developed in response to customer feedback and demand, increases the options available to business customers of how they interact with the bank. It also provides 24-hour access to their account information.

Security is one of the key drivers of the new app, and customers will have to be registered as online banking users and will have unique pass codes to access the accounts.

Ed Hodges, head of mobile, business and commercial banking, said: "Accessibility is a key feature we hear about in customer feedback.

"The traditional 9-5 working day is becoming more and more a rarity and this provides the customer with account information around the clock. The launch of the app is the latest development in providing our customers with a clear choice of how they manage their relationship with us."

The RBS & NatWest Business Banking App is available for free from the App Store on iPad, iPhone and iPod touch or at www.itunes.com/appstore.

REGENERATION

Retailers buoyed by high-street upgrade

SHOPS and restaurants are taking advantage of the improvements taking place on Maidstone high street as some have recently opened or are on the verge of opening their doors for business soon.

Malcolm Greer, cabinet member for economic development and transport, visited a sample of these shops to see what the future might hold and the opportunities available after the regeneration work is completed in April.

He said: "It's pleasing to see so many shops that have recently made their way to the high street, or those that are about to open soon.

"There's only 16 weeks left of the refurbishment project and we have delivered it, so far, on time and on budget.

"The quality of work is of a very high standard and now shops are seeing the results they are beginning to move their business into the high street.

"This was my aim when I launched the scheme back in 2009, and now three years on we are on our way to creating more jobs, giving business more opportunity and really helping the economic development of the town."

A programme of events is also planned once the works are complete, which will bring more footfall down the high street for the businesses to reap the rewards.

The high-street area of the town has come under pressure in recent times because of the two large shopping centres in close proximity, especially Fremlin Walk, which has attracted a number of flagship stores.

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EMPLOYMENT

Experience helps our young people find their place in the world of work

IT IS increasingly important in the current economic climate to get young people into the world of work.

Currently there are two major ways for school-leavers and students to get the experience they need to thrive in the wider world – work experience and apprenticeships.

The issue of remuneration aside, the major difference is that apprenticeships are aimed at those who have already decided on a career and want to learn it, while work experience aims to give a broad spectrum of what a particular line of work can offer.

The latter offers a realistic view of what the world of work involves and gives participants the chance to see if what they originally envisaged as a chosen career is really for them.

Equally importantly, it can give them the chance to find out something to which they aspired is not for them – so ensuring they have time to go down a different path.

Apprenticeships enable young people to work with those already doing the job and learn from them, as well as feel what it is like to be part of a team.

One aspect both have in common is demanding something from the young people themselves.

If they go into a work place expecting all they will do is make cups of tea, that is very likely all they will do.

A willingness to learn and to come

up with original thoughts and ideas will make the experience so much more rewarding and worthwhile.

And it is not just young people who benefit from placements – businesses can use work-experience programmes as part of their own planning.

Companies have reported that their employees often benefit directly in terms of the skills they develop from managing and supporting young people on work experience.

Some employers have used work experience as a way of opening doors and encouraging young people from a range of different backgrounds to consider careers in their sector, for example attracting women into engineering. This is particularly important for organisations requiring a workforce that reflects and understands their client groups – and may be looking to diversify.

Particularly when it comes to winning public contracts, business engagement in communities is viewed favourably by potential clients.

Work experience can help achieve profile – and not just with those they hope to employ in the future.

Young people and their families are often also customers and their insights can be invaluable as a company seeks to position itself with its key market audiences. The best way of doing this has been to ensure the integrity

of the work-experience placement. Gareth Perryman, 17, has just finished a work-experience internship at a leading financial institution.

“What I took away with me was a very clear idea of the competitiveness of the workplace as well as the demands made on employees,” he said.

“Dress, punctuality, team effort and individual innovations and thought are all so much higher on my radar than ever before.

“I was made to feel welcome – but really it was up to me what I took away from the placement and it has given me a proper feeling for the commercial world. I also have a very much clearer idea of the right subjects to study in further education.”

Business is very much aware of the importance of apprenticeships.

Barclays Retail and Business Banking is creating 1,000 apprenticeships and offering young people the opportunity to build careers in the financial-services industry through a major programme launching in April.

The new drive will provide crucial opportunities for young people who are currently struggling to find work.

Roles will be based across England and Wales, and Barclays will be recruiting based on aptitude and attitude rather than experience and qualifications, giving specific focus to those not currently in employment,



LEARNING: Apprenticeships and work experience help our young people

education or training. Successful applicants will receive 12 months' training and support and progress to a permanent position.

During their training, apprentices

will also work to achieve a competency qualification in Financial Services similar to an NVQ, a BTEC award in customer service and qualifications in numeracy and literacy.

There will be a number of roles on offer in the South East across Barclays UK Retail and Business Banking division providing services to customers in Barclays branches.

Antony Jenkins, chief executive of Barclays Retail and Business Banking, said: “Tackling youth unemployment is one of the biggest challenges facing the UK economy. As a large employer we want to create opportunities which raise young people's skills and aspirations, and help them to support future prosperity.

“We are really excited about this programme because it will give many young people their vital first job opportunity, which they can then go on to develop into rewarding long-term careers.”

Skills Minister John Hayes said: “I am delighted Barclays are investing in apprenticeships which will help them secure the high-quality skills they need to create economic growth and provide pathways to excellence for the brightest and best young people.

“Creating a highly-skilled workforce that can take on the best in the world means seeing apprenticeships as an access pathway to the professions.”

Training, courses and careers

Rallying call to Kent employers

BUSINESS leaders in Kent and Medway are being urged to hire more apprentices as part of the ongoing fight against youth unemployment.

Vic Grimes – director of the National Apprenticeship Service for London and the South East – delivered the rallying call at an employer engagement event at MidKent College's Medway campus.

It was organised by the Kent Association of Training Organisations (Kato).

Mr Grimes said: "We have a really good story to tell about apprentices in England.

"Last year there were more than 457,000 apprenticeship starts – a 63 per cent increase on the previous year – and for the first time in this country more young people are choosing to take that route instead of university.

"More than one million 16 to 24-year-olds in England are Neet (Not in Employment, Education or Training) so we need to continue creating opportunities for them.

"Young people get a bad press but the ones I've met through NAS are ambassadors for their age group. All they want is an opportunity to prove themselves, and that's where employers come in."

Principal Stephen Grix said: "When looking at the future employment prospects for their children, it won't be long before there's much more interest in apprentices generally from parents – but we're not there yet."

Law firm starts apprenticeships

INTERNATIONAL law firm Kennedys, which has offices in Maidstone, is launching its Kennedys Legal Apprenticeship Programme in partnership with Damar Training.

Apprentices will complete a legal-specific apprenticeship designed to act as a springboard into a successful career in the world of law.

Damar Training is to provide training and assessment for the apprenticeship programme which will offer A-level school-leavers the opportunity to join Kennedys as legal administrators.

The three-year apprenticeship programme is made up of two phases.

The first is an introductory one-year intermediate apprenticeship offering individuals the chance to familiarise themselves with the legal world, carrying out administration and office duties while building their legal knowledge.

That will be followed by a two-year advanced apprenticeship focused on immersing individuals into legal work, assisting on cases and developing expertise in their area of law.

Apprenticeship places are available in Maidstone from September, 2012.

Determination to find work pays off for Kevin

'NEVER give up on finding work, whatever age you are', is one man's inspirational message after finding employment thanks to Medway Council.

Kevin Tilley, 60, has become one of the first people to get a permanent job through the new Employment and Skills Centre on the Rochester Riverside development.

Mr Tilley, from Strood, took just three weeks to find a job as gatekeeper for Denne Construction at its Rochester Riverside site after being referred by Job Centre Plus to the Employ Medway Advice Centre in Chatham.

He had been unemployed for 16 months and became

increasingly disheartened after sending 400 applications

to employers with no reply, before Employ Medway intervened.

"I'm absolutely over the moon to be working – I was by no means ready to retire and love having that reason to get up in the morning and get a job done" he said.

Mr Tilley has turned his hands to many trades in the past, from a job as a community officer to working in the Royal Navy and running his own business selling swimming pools.

After losing his job through injury, he found that despite his experience, he was having little luck with applications before Employ Medway's help.

"When you're in your late '50s and '60s like me, you get disheartened, particularly when companies can get three young lads between say 18 and

24 to work for them instead.

"But I knew how capable I was and wasn't prepared to give up, no matter how many applications I had to hand out" he said.

Mr Tilley, whose role includes supervising site personnel and vehicles and handling public enquiries at the entrance to the regeneration development in Rochester, said Employ Medway's proactive approach can appeal to everyone.

"I'm so thankful to Employ Medway for all the work that was done to help find me a job. My advisors were always on the phone to me giving me regular support.

"It's a good service with great conditions and anything I needed they helped me with, so I'd really recommend it to anyone" he said.

Medway Council's portfolio holder for strategic development and economic growth, Cllr Jane Chitty, said: "Kevin never gave up hope and through his determination and our ability to assist him, has found his way back into work.

"It's incredibly rewarding to see Kevin back in the working environment and enjoying himself and I wish him every success for the future."

Graham Brown, Denne managing director, said: "As part of Denne's dedication to local employment and training, we will continue to work with Medway Council and the Hyde Group to provide excellent opportunities like this on the Rochester Riverside project."



BACK TO WORK: Cllr Jane Chitty and Kevin Tilley celebrate his new employment

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EDUCATION**

School consortium builds on its reputation with construction course

A consortium of schools has been rewarded for its excellence in providing the Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment (C&BE).

The Gravesham Consortium, which includes Northfleet School for Boys, Northfleet School for Girls, Hextable School, Wilmington Grammar School for Boys, Meopham School, St John's Catholic School, and St George's C of E, has been delivering the C&BE Diploma at all levels since 2008 and was awarded the prize

because of its impressive achievements and flexible approach to delivering the Diploma as well as successes on grades, student progression and overall support for students.

Project manager Pauline Blayney, who received the award on behalf of the consortium at CITB-Construction Skills' London office said: "We are delighted to have been recognised as an outstanding provider of the Diploma in Construction and

the Built Environment.

"The award goes to prove that as well as the teaching of practical skills, employer engagement and work experience are vital elements in giving young people a well-rounded educational experience.

"We hope to continue developing young people who can breathe new life into the UK construction industry, helping it to stay innovative and competitive in challenging times."

Trainer project is lesson in business for pupils

PUPILS at The Abbey School in Faversham had to be quick off the mark when they were challenged to design trainers for the commercial market.

The Year 7 pupils were taking part in an Enterprise Day and industry experts were on hand to offer advice.

Kate Austen of specialist running shop PodPlus, was joined by Mark Leader of the Kent Soccer Company and Nike retailers Nick Pearce and Kelly Woodford, to give the pupils top tips.

There were 40 teams of five pupils, each tasked with creating the next generation trainer shoe, building in technical benefits, finding a unique selling point and considering retail price.

Marc Leader of Faversham-based Kent Soccer Company, a sports clothing specialist, said: "The thought and work the students obviously put into designing the trainers was remarkable and although a winner and runner up had to be picked, I believe that every member of the year should be congratulated."

The winning team 'Memtops' came up with their front runner, a bright pink fashion trainer



KEEP ON RUNNING: Georgina Saunders, 11, Holly Cheeseman, 12, and Keyaana Slater, 11

with a high technical specification, which impressed the judges.

Jessica Lee, Elouise James, Keyaana Slater, Georgina Saunders and Holly Cheeseman were delighted at their success.

Holly, 12, said: "The day gave us a real idea of how businesses work and I liked finding out more about Nike from the staff who visited us."

Kate Austen, a young entrepreneur who owns Podplus, based at Ashford's Julie Rose Stadium, said the event would help inspire business careers and added: "At Podplus we understand that every foot is different and it was fantastic to be able to share some industry-specific tips on how the way a trainer is made means it can suit different needs and activities."

Sixth formers take some risks and learn all about about insurance

SIXTH form students at Tonbridge Grammar School got involved in risky business with a learning session about careers in insurance.

The Chartered Insurance Institute (CII), the insurance sector's professional body, delivered its Discover Risk activity to the school to give the 16 to 18-year-olds more information on the range of global opportunities that exist in the sector.

The interactive session aimed to show students how

vital it is for businesses and people to manage different levels of risk, and how a career in insurance helps meet this responsibility.

The event was supported by Christopher Digby, art and private client manager at Bromley-based Brownhill Insurance Group, who gave advice on the decisions associated with risk management.

Students took part in an interactive game, with each team participating in a scenario-

based activity where different levels of risk were explored.

The types of problems facing the would-be risk managers included a singer losing her voice on tour, cameras being damaged on a movie set and piracy affecting a company's profits.

Jackie Gibbs, PE and PSHE team leader, says: "The Discover Risk game helped benefit our students by allowing them to explore the complex concepts of risk management through a fun and engaging platform."

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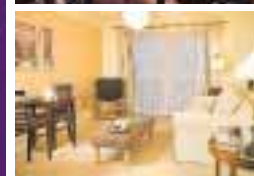
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ISP looks after children from many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds including white UK, African, African-Caribbean, Asian and dual heritage. We are keen to recruit carers from similar cultural backgrounds. In addition, we are currently experiencing a high demand to look after: children with various disabilities, children who are involved in the criminal justice system and 'parent & child' placed together.

IF YOU HAVE:

- life experience
- the ability to work with children or young people and parents
- the ability to rise to the challenge of fostering
- patience, determination and a sense of humour
- no children under the age of 8
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- a career change in mind

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Visit our website for more information:
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The courses we are offering include STCW95 Basic Safety training, Marine Evacuation System training & Maritime Resource Management.

To discuss your training requirements contact Julia Hambrook, P&O Ferries Safety Training Manager on 01304 863272 or mail to: julia.hambrook@poferries.com

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SKILFUL KENT

MARITIME

Ferry company sets new standard for safety at sea

AT P&O Ferries the philosophy is not just to meet the letter of the law when it comes to safety legislation.

The company also strives to meet the spirit of safety requirements and to take a leading role in developing concepts that encourage the continual enhancement of safety at sea.

As a result, the business has been instrumental in the application of marine escape systems to passenger vessels, embracing the concept of maritime resource management training so enthusiastically that it became the first UK shipping company licensed to deliver this inspirational safety training regime.

And it recently became the first ferry company in the world to build ships to the International Maritime Organisation's new Safe Return To Port standards.

With a fleet of 21 ships and employing more than 2,000 seafarers, it has the scale, experience and expertise to deliver a broad range of training programmes to its own workforce, and to a broad spectrum of other companies in the maritime sector. But more than this, the staff have a passion to develop the safety ethos at all levels, from raw recruits to master mariners.

Its comprehensive range of courses covers safety and survival requirements for passenger and freight ships and is also suitable to meet the growing demand

for training personnel engaged in the burgeoning renewable-energy marine sector.

Just some of the courses include:
■ Basic Safety Training courses: these are an initial requirement for a career at sea.
■ MCA-approved STCW training courses on offer are: **■ Personal Survival Techniques**
■ Personal Safety & Social Responsibilities
■ Elementary First Aid / Medical First Aid Aboard Ship **■ Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting** **■ Maritime Resource Management.**

All three-day MRM courses are recognised by IMarEST and accredited by the Nautical Institute and Maritime Coastguard Agency. MRM is ideal for deck and engineering officers, together with maritime pilots and shore-based personnel.

The objective is to ensure that sound resource management practices underpin everyday actions to reduce operational errors.

Marine Evacuation System training offers essential theoretical and practical training for crews of ships fitted with this equipment, which can be adapted as required.

P&O Ferries has its own dedicated training centre and its trainers are some of the most highly-regarded professionals in the maritime sector.

■ To discuss training requirements, email Julia Hambrook, P&O Ferries safety training manager, at julia.hambrook@poferries.com, or phone 01304 863272.

FOSTERING

Tomorrow's adults are in need of help today

ISP is an independent, not-for-profit childcare organisation that has been supporting the work of local-authority social-services departments throughout the UK since 1987.

Its unique integrated approach enables the organisation to offer highly-supported fostering placements that benefit from immediate and local access to the multi-disciplinary teams attached to each of its centres.

ISP's not-for-profit status underpins a philosophy of providing a high-quality, value-for-money fostering resource to its local-authority colleagues. Any modest surplus is shared between reinvestment in resources and the ISP Children's Foundation, an independent charity providing financial support to looked-after children leaving care.

While there is always a shortage of people prepared to find a place in their homes for foster children, that shortage is particularly keen when it comes to placing children with problems. This, says ISP, is its primary role.

ISP will be there to help those children whose needs are so great they cannot be met by social services. They are aged from their earliest months to 18 years and have often suffered severe traumas such as abuse, neglect or bereavement, and experience emotional, behavioural and social difficulties as a result.

ISP says the first and most fundamental step towards leading a normal life for these young people is to provide them with a safe and nurturing home with a foster family.

The group is looking for very special people to provide foster care for these youngsters – either on a part-time, full-time or respite basis. But their hard work is recognised with generous allowances and ISP provides the training and support network they will need to do the job.

ISP places great emphasis on the support and expertise available from each of its centres and believes it is of crucial importance to foster carers and the children placed with them that their centre is as local as possible.

The centres form the basis of ISP's work and are well-equipped, comfortable environments that reflect the aspiration and ambition that ISP staff and carers hold for all children placed in one of their families. They provide locally-available specialist resources in terms of educational assessment, social work, therapy and family contact and also offer excellent training and meeting facilities.

ISP has nine centres across Kent, Sussex, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and London.

Many of the foster carers it has recruited and trained in other areas have come from a social-care or educational background, but the first and most important quality it looks for is the capacity to see beyond difficult and often disruptive behaviour to the needy child within.

They are like all other children. They need support, guidance and understanding to help them become balanced, functioning adults.

■ To discuss this further, you can phone the Fostering Team on 0800 0857989.

EDUCATION

Give your child the best possible start

KING'S Rochester is a very special place.

It occupies a majestic and unique site between Rochester's ancient castle and cathedral overlooking the River Medway, but its imposing and ancient exterior belies a warmth rarely found in a school whose traditions are centuries old.

Founded in AD 604, King's has evolved into a leading 21st-century school for girls and boys aged three to 18, with excellent facilities at all levels. Boarders may join at 11.

Academic standards are outstanding. King's A-level pupils who collected their results last summer achieved an average point score per examination entry of 238.5, outstripping all local grammar schools and the national average of 216.2

The students who achieved these wonderful grades in July are now studying at top universities across the UK, including five at Oxford and Cambridge and others at sought-after Russell Group establishments such as Durham, Bristol, Liverpool, Imperial College, London and Leeds.

GCSE candidates did the school proud, too. Their achievements put them above all the Kent broad-ability, independent schools, with 92 per cent of pupils gaining five good GCSEs or more, including maths and English.

In the pre-preparatory and prepar-



atory schools, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 results were also outstanding

– 90 per cent of King's Preparatory School's pupils achieved Level 4 in

both English and maths in the tests set in May, compared with 74 per cent of

pupils nationally. King's success is all the more laudable given the breadth of curriculum pursued at the school and its broad-ability intake.

King's Rochester is a school that prides itself on the ability of its staff to bring out the best in every child and to help them achieve to their maximum, not only academically but also in all other areas of school life.

Talents and strengths are celebrated and supported – wherever they lie – and successful children are happy children. King's is a happy school.

Pupils and staff are also proud to belong to the oldest Cathedral Choir School in the world and traditions sit easily alongside a curriculum for the 21st century.

The school's next open day will be on Saturday, March 3, from 9.30am to noon. There is no need to book, but should you have any questions you can contact the registrar, Lynne Davies, on 01634 888590, or email her at admissions@kings-rochester.co.uk.

Principal elect Jeremy Walker will be at the King's open day and is looking forward to meeting parents and prospective pupils. Mr Walker will take over from Dr Ian Walker when he retires in July after 26 years of distinguished service.

■ See www.kings-rochester.co.uk for more information.

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Rate of pay will be £8.00 per hour, plus enhanced rates for unsocial hours.

For application forms and further information contact
Judith West 01474 533990
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Closing date for completed applications
27th Feb, 2012



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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

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Medway Scale D2, points 12 - 21

£15,039 - £19,126

(pro rata - 37 hours per week, term time only)

Abbey Court School caters for pupils aged 4-19 years with severe learning difficulties and is located on two sites at Strood and Rainham. The new appointment will be expected to work 37 hours per week (8am to 4pm Monday to Thursday and 8am to 3.30pm on Fridays), term time only across both sites to undertake reception/administrative duties at the school.

We are looking for somebody with:

- good level of education, with GCSE's (or equivalent) in Maths and English
- experience of using Microsoft Office (particularly Word and Excel)
- excellent organisational skills and attention to detail
- knowledge of school office work and SIMS database desirable
- enthusiasm and a good sense of humour

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

Closing Date: 24th February 2012

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3SP.
(Tel: 01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.



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The Hundred of Hoo School**
Members of the The Williamson Trust
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Scale D2 (£15,039 - £19,126) pro rata for a term time only appointment

The Williamson Trust consists of the Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School and The Hundred of Hoo School. We are at an exciting stage in our development and have recently restructured our IT Department to meet the Trust's strategic vision for outstanding provision and outcomes for ICT. We are looking for ICT Technicians who relish a challenge and have the ability to multi-task at a moment's notice. If you have recent experience of Windows Server, Active Directory, Group Policy, Windows 7, Office 2010, SIMs and Apple Mac's and can demonstrate on your application ability to work as part of a team, flexibility in terms of work location and ability to communicate with staff at all levels we would be interested to receive your application.

One post will be based at the Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School.

The terms and conditions of this post will be 37 hours per week for 52 weeks of the year.

The Hundred of Hoo School require one IT Technician to work 37 hours per week for 52 weeks of the year and the VLE Support Technician will work 37 hours per week for 39 weeks per year (a pro rata salary will therefore apply). The roles will also require you to work at either school or support our primary partner schools.

For more information on the two schools please visit our website (www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk or www.hooschool.co.uk). The job description/person specification will be available on the website for you to view and download

If you wish to have an informal conversation about the posts then please contact Mr Sean Daly, Director of IT, by email on s.daly@hohschool.co.uk.

All applications should be received by Mrs Lorraine Mottram, HR Manager, The Hundred of Hoo School, Main Road, Hoo, ME3 9HH (email l.mottram@hohschool.co.uk) by 4pm on 2 March 2012.

Short-listed candidates will be invited for an informal visit at each school prior to interview. Interviews for the posts will take place the week commencing 12 March 2012 at the Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau. Any offer of employment will be subject to satisfactory clearance thereof.

Closing Date: Friday, 2nd March 2012

**To place your notice here call the Kent Public
Notice team on 01303 817044**

PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

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We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

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For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

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Salary: £58,000 - £60,000 per annum

MidKent College is seeking to appoint a Director for Higher Education to spearhead its strategy for expanding and modernising its HE offer. The College currently has an annual income of around £2.3 million from its Higher Education courses. It has invested in a dedicated HE and Professional Studies building in Maidstone and is committed to providing higher education programmes for each area of significant employment in the county.

The successful candidate will have a track record in leading curriculum innovation and change and will understand the context of delivering Higher Education within a Further Education environment. They will be responsible for the College's strategy on Higher Education and its adoption by the College's Governing Body.

Lecturer in Beauty Therapy **Ref: T001**

**£23,043 - £30,118 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
18.5 hours per week. Fixed Term Maternity Cover. Medway Campus**

The College is currently looking to a recruit dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturer in the Beauty Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part time learners. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Personal Tutor **Ref: T002**

**£20,724 - £26,702 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
22.5 hours per week. Medway Campus**

As a Personal Tutor you will plan and deliver a full range of group tutorials to learners with a wide range of abilities. You will be able to work with minimum supervision and have experience of working in a coaching, mentoring or teaching capacity and hold or be willing to undertake an appropriate teaching qualification.

Closing date: 12 noon, Wednesday 29 February 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.



PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

THANET COLLEGE
RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

Skills Practitioner / Catering Technician (Restaurant/Front of House)

25 hours per week, 37 weeks worked a year
Salary: £9,198 - £10,869

Benefits include: Final salary contributory pension and 23 days pro rata paid holiday.

To provide Learning/Technical support to staff and students within the Division and to undertake assessment and quality assurance duties as required by the College and awarding bodies.

Closing date: 29 February 2012
Interview Date: 5 March 2012

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

**Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination**

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THANET COLLEGE
RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

STUDENT CENTRAL ADVISOR

FIXED TERM FOR ONE YEAR (MATERNITY COVER)

To work as part of a team of advisers in Student Central providing an efficient, accurate and customer focused admissions, welfare and reception service as required. To ensure the smooth running of the central admissions and welfare processes, providing front line advice and guidance to current and potential students and staff.

SALARY SCALE: £15,980 - £17,791
for 37 hours per week, all year

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

Closing date: Wednesday 29th February 2012
Interview date: Monday 12th March 2012

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PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

NOTICE TO FELL TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Be advised, that it is our intention to have a sycamore and two ash trees adjacent and to the right hand-side of 31 the Mallows felled, whose ownership was unable to be established and whose continued presence constitute a significant threat of ongoing Subsidence damage to the property known as 31 The Mallows, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2PX.

Arrangements will be made for the trees to be felled and all arisings to be removed from site, twenty eight (28) days after the date of this notice.

Any representations from interested parties must be received at the office below prior to the expiry of this period.

Date of this notice 13th February, 2012

Signed: B. Maule & Co Ltd
For and on Behalf of B. MAULE & Co Ltd.
Contact:- Derek Cormack, B. Maule & Co. Ltd, Albion Chambers, Matthew Street, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 1SD. Telephone 01582 602260 Fax: 01582 608901 e-mail: dcormack@maule.co.uk

Notice of an Application for the Grant of a Premises Licence (Licensing Act 2003)

Notice is hereby given that St Michael's Village Hall Management Committee has applied to Ashford Borough Council for the GRANT of PREMISES LICENCE for Plays, Films, Recorded & Live Music, Dancing, Indoor Sporting Events Sunday-Thursday 09.00-23.00, Friday & Saturday 23.00-00.00, Late Night Refreshments Friday & Saturday 23.00-00.00 for the premises St Michael's Village Hall situated at Grange Road

A register of licensing applications can be viewed at the Licensing Section, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL 01233 330721 by appointment

Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by: 14 March 2012

Dated this 15th day of February 2012

Ken Mulholland

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER, PUBLIC SAFETY, THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5000), under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Stuart Kilby trading as S R Kilby Contractors of Oldbury Nursery, Betersden Ashford Kent TN26 3BJ is applying for a licence to use 2 Goods Vehicles and 1 trailer and to use Oldbury Nursery, Betersden Ashford Kent TN26 3BJ as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 1 trailer. Owners and occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representation to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Hare hills lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioners Office

ROTHMARS LIMITED (formerly Nationwide IS Limited) (Company Number 07511587)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Regus Meeting Rooms, No 1 Liverpool Street, London, EC2M 7QD, on Friday 24 February 2012, at 2.15 pm for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act. Mr P G Byatt of LB Insolvency Solutions Ltd, Onslow House, 62 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1SW, is qualified to act as an insolvency practitioner in relation to the above and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the company's affairs as is reasonably required. Further details contact: P G Byatt, (IP No. 8277). Email: info@lbinsolvency.co.uk Tel: 01245 254791 Robert McGovern, Director

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

EMLYM LIMITED (Company Number 07075282) (formerly Domjan Limited)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Onslow House, 62 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1SW, on 29 February 2012, at 11.15 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act. Mr P G Byatt of LB Insolvency Ltd, Onslow House, 62 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1SW, is qualified to act as insolvency practitioners in relation to the above and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as is reasonably required. Further details contact: P G Byatt (IP No. 8277). Email: info@lbinsolvency.co.uk, Tel: 01245 254791. Dated 15 February 2012 Martin Cross, Director

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PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

- MA/11/1693/S** - LITTLE BOCKINGFORD, CRIPPLE STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6DN - Listed Building Consent for removal of flat roof area over kitchen and replacement with pitched roof, plus internal alterations including removal of ground floor walls. **Reason: 3**
- MA/12/0013/N** - LAND AT EAST LENHAM FARM, LENHAM HEATH ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Construction of 5MW photovoltaic park including attendant infrastructure and associated works. **Reason: 1, 6, 9**
- MA/12/0105/N** - GORE COTTAGE, ASHFORD ROAD, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4NG - Extensions to north and east elevations on two floors. **Reason: 1**
- MA/12/0106/N** - GORE COTTAGE, ASHFORD ROAD, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4NG - An application for listed building consent for extensions to north and east elevations on two floors and demolition of existing extension. **Reason: 3**
- MA/12/0110/N** - NORTON CHARITY, BROAD STREET HILL, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1QY - Retrospective application for a stable/garden store building. **Reason: 1, 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.
- 9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **4th March 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 19th February 2012



PLANNING



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or its setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.
7. This application will affect trees covered by a tree preservation order.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 05 MARCH 2012

SW/11/1486:
Single storey ground floor extension and single storey first floor over garage extension - 7 Ospringe Place, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1, 2 & 7.

SW/12/0040:
Remove existing timber sash windows and replace with PVCU sash windows - 29 Briton Road, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1.

SW/12/0093 &
SW/12/0137:
Provision of oak timber doors to enclose present parking area and 3 no. conservation style rooflights- The Cart Lodge, Chaffes Lane, UPCHURCH, REASONS 2 & 4.

SW/12/0096:
Variation of condition 1 of SW/09/1142 to allow permanent permission for one caravan for a romany family- The Meadows Farm, Elverland Lane, OSFRINGE; REASON 3.

SW/12/0113:
Variation of condition 2 of planning permission NK/8/60/99 to extend the occupancy period of 10 months between 1st March - 3rd January - Sunnymead Caravan Park, Fourth Avenue, EASTCHURCH; REASONS 3 & 4.

SW/12/0114:
Variation of condition 2 of planning permission SW/80/296 to extend the occupancy period to 10 months between 1st March - 3rd January - Pleasant View, First Avenue, EASTCHURCH; REASON 3.

SW/12/0115:
Variation of condition (i) of the permission granted under NK/8/49/57 to allow chalets & caravans to be used between 1st March & 3rd January - Eastchurch Holiday Camp, Fourth Avenue, EASTCHURCH; REASON 3.

SW/12/0117 &
SW/12/0121:
Application for a new planning permission & listed building consent to replace extant permission/consent to extend time limit for implementation. Proposed development: Demolition of existing rear extensions, alterations & new extension to listed building (former Garden House Hotel in Boughton Under Blean) to form 10 individually designed dwellings. Works to include improved access, new parking arrangement and integrated landscaping - Former Garden Hotel, 169 The Street, BOUGHTON; REASON 2.

SW/12/0129:
Erection of gates and railings to supplement existing boundary treatments on the front boundary - Byfield Court, Sheppey Way, BOBBING; REASON 2.

SW/12/0127 &
SW/12/0128:
Extension with internal alterations to form additional classroom and relocation of existing staffroom, to include formation of single opening to internal wall in the school house and enlargement of opening to flank wall of existing staffroom - Lynsted & Norton Primary School, Lynsted Lane, LYNSTED; REASON 1.

SW/12/0134:
Two storey extension to front and side - Mill House, Deanshill, BREDGAR; REASON 2.

SW/12/0138:
Repair/removal of defective concrete on main teaching block and science block and recladding and reglazing of the main teaching block and reglazing of the science block - Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Abbey Place, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 3.

SW/12/0141:
Agricultural barn - Alpaca Farm, Yaughar Lane, SITTINGBOURNE; REASON 3.

SW/12/0147:
Provision of a 1000m straight gallop with an additional integrated 600m circular gallop to replace a 600m gallop granted under planning consent SW/11/0590 (not constructed) - Eyehorn Farm, Mungore Lane, BORDEN; REASON 3.

SW/12/0160:
Erection of a double garage with driveway alterations - Keites Styles, Mill Lane, HARTLIP; REASON 1.

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/00344/HOUSE Waterden Goddards Green Road, Benenden
- Extension at first floor level, replacement conservatory, detached double car port, new road access and close existing shared access (LB)

12/00341/HOUSE Highgate House 32A Broadwater Down, Broadwater
- Remodelling of existing bungalow to form two storey house with attic bedroom (CA)

12/00232/FULMJ Moat Farm Whetsted Road, Capel
- Outline (Appearance and landscaping reserved) - Construction of two independent controlled atmosphere fruit storage buildings. 06/03355/OUTMJ Removal of Conditions 5 - Restriction of use to certain times and Condition 6 - Only produce grown on land farmed by Adrian Scripps Ltd shall be stored within said buildings (LB) (MAJOR) (PROW)

12/00253/HOUSE Postern Park Postern Lane, Capel
- Erection of a brick garden wall, formation of a swimming pool, alterations to garden building to form pool plant room and erection of a bicycle store (LB)

12/00256/LBC Postern Park Postern Lane, Capel
- Listed Building Consent - Erection of a brick garden wall, formation of a swimming pool, alterations to garden building to form pool plant room and erection of a bicycle store (LB)

12/00264/FULMJ Moat Farm Whetsted Road, Capel
- One controlled atmosphere fruit store and one agricultural store. 03/02435/FULMJ Removal of conditions 7 - Routes of access, Conditions 8 Use of buildings for only agricultural purposes and condition 9 - Commercial vehicles access restrictions (LB) (MAJOR)

12/00265/FUL Whetsted Stores Whetsted Road, Capel
- Erection of cold store and internal access road 99/00206/FUL. Removal of condition 9 Agricultural lorry deliveries shall access and exit the site via the approved new road and 10 Cold store must only be used for agricultural produce, which is reasonably necessary for the purpose of agriculture at Moat Farm (LB)

12/00293/FUL Chilworth High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Land adjacent - New 4 bed detached house (LB) (CA)

12/00260/HOUSE Great Bubhurst Farm Bubhurst Lane, Frittenden
- Extension of time - single-storey side extensions to existing garage and conversion of roof space to provide room including two dormer windows (TW/09/01164 refers) (LB)

12/00268/LBC Great Bubhurst Farm Bubhurst Lane, Frittenden
- Listed building consent - Extension of time - single-storey side extensions to existing garage and conversion of roof space to provide room including two dormer windows (TW/09/01165 refers) (LB)

11/03541/FUL The Old Mill Northgrove Road, Hawkhurst
- Conversion from office use to 2 no. 2 bed flats (CA)

12/00333/FUL Little Pixhall Farm High Street, Hawkhurst
- Two replacement agricultural barns (one retrospective) (LB)

12/00218/HOUSE 16 Morland Drive Lamberhurst, Lamberhurst
- Car port (CA) (LB)

12/00269/HOUSE Warrington Farmhouse Church Road, Paddock Wood
- Three bay oak framed detached garage (LB)

12/00225/FUL 11 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Replacement shopfront (CA)

12/00280/CAC Hollands Farm Langton Road, Speldhurst
- Conservation Area Consent - Demolition of existing outbuildings (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgegells.gov.uk), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgegells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 18 February 2012



NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/TW/0025/2012 - Proposed development at Hawkhurst North Wastewater Treatment Works, Hearten oak Road, Hawkhurst, Kent, TN18 5EY.

Southern Water Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for construction of a walk-in Kiosk and other structures to support upgrades to wastewater treatment processes.

KCC/TW/0028/2012 - Proposed development at Lot K985743, Hearten oak Road, Hawkhurst, Kent, TN18 5EY.

Southern Water Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for establishment of a temporary construction compound containing welfare cabins and storage areas to support development at Hawkhurst North Wastewater Treatment Works.

You may view these applications at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 19 February 2012



Public Notice

19 February 2012



The Canterbury City Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Amendment No 1) Order 2012

The Canterbury City Council proposes to make the above Order under the provisions of Sections 32 and 35 and Parts III and IV of the Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, with the consent of the Kent County Council under Section 39(3) of the said Act of 1984.

The proposed order would have the effect of:

- (a) Amending the description of the Herne Bay and Whitstable Business Users permits which would restrict the availability of the permits to those who work in Herne Bay or Whitstable town centres.

- (b) Amending the charge for the Whitefriars car park to:

Sunday to Friday	Minimum fee	£1.70
	Rate based on	£1.70 per hour
	Saturdays:	
	Minimum fee	£3.40
	Rate based on	£1.70 per hour thereafter
	Over five hours	£20
	Between 6pm and 12 midnight	£1.70
	(No entry after 12 midnight)	

A copy of the draft Order, the Order amended by the proposals and the statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined at the Council's Offices as follows:

Council Offices, Military Road, Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm
Canterbury

Herne Bay Divisional Office,) Monday to Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm
William Street, Herne Bay) Saturday 9.30am to 1pm

If you wish to object to the proposals you should send the grounds for your objection, in writing, to the undersigned so as to arrive by 9am on **12 March 2012**.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
CANTERBURY CT1 1YW

Planning applications



Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//11/02196/FUL: Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge, CT4 5JX Extensions and alterations and construction of new garage.

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Forbes Reason: Conservation area.

CA//12/00107/LB: 36 Broad Street, Canterbury, CT1 2LR Erection of single-storey extension to rear of listed building. **Applicant: Mr Abbott**

Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA//12/00117/FUL: 36 Broad Street, Canterbury, CT1 2LR Single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Paul Abbott**

Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 12 March 2012**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dce

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 17 February 2012

To place your notice here call the
Kent Public Notice team on
01303 817044





NOTE 2: Release fee for Castle Street is £50

Canterbury City Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2012



- (iv) **Outer, Canterbury – Longport, Northgate and Station Road West** (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 7am and 9pm daily:
Minimum fee 70p
Per hour £1

- (v) **Recreation Ground Car Parks, Canterbury – Toddlers Cove and Victoria Recreation Ground** (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 7am and 9pm daily:
Up to 2 hours 10p
Over 2 hours an hourly rate of £1

- (vi) **Other Canterbury car parks – Cow Lane, Kingsmead and Maynard Road** (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 7am and 9pm daily:
Up to 5 hours 80p**
5 to 24 hours £2.20
Kingsmead Leisure Centre
Up to 3 hours £1**

**This fee for the Kingsmead and Kingsmead Leisure Centre car parks will be refunded on admission to users of the Kingsmead Leisure Centre. Motorcycles will be free of charge.

- (vii) **Long Stay, Herne Bay – Beach Street, King's Road* and Market Street** (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 7am and 6pm:
Minimum fee 30p
Per hour 50p
Maximum charge £2.50

*Not available on Saturday, some Sundays and Bank Holidays as a car park.

- School Lane, Herne and Reculver Towers, Reculver** (Motor cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 7am and 6pm daily:
Up to 30 minutes 20p
30 minutes to 2 hours 40p
2 to 24 hours £1

- (viii) **Short Stay, Herne Bay – William Street** (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:
Minimum fee 40p
Per hour 70p

A maximum fee of £2.10 to be refunded upon admission to those persons using Herons Leisure Centre.

- (ix) **Neptune** (Motor Cars only)
Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:
Minimum fee 40p
Per hour 70p
Neptune (Motor Cars with Trailers or trailers only)
Good Friday to 30 September
Any period £10
Neptune (Motor Cars with Trailers or trailers only)
1 October to Good Friday
Any period £1.60

- (x) **Whitstable Short Stay – Gladstone Road, Keam's Yard, Middle Wall, Shaftesbury Road and Victoria Street** (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:
Minimum fee 40p
Per hour 70p

- (xi) **Whitstable Harbour – Harbour** (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:
Up to 30 minutes 50p
30 minutes to 1 hour 80p
1 to 2 hours £2.50
Over 2 hours Penalty Charge incurred

- Oyster** (Motor Cars etc)
Up to 30 minutes 50p
30 minutes to 1 hour 80p
1 to 3 hours £2.50
3 to 5 hours £3
5 to 24 hours £4

NOTE: The Harbour car park is not available for holders of Whitstable Business User or Residents' Permits.

- (xii) **Whitstable Long Stay – Gorrell Tank and Tankerton Road** (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)
Between 8.30am and 8pm
Minimum fee 30p
Per hour 50p
Maximum charge £2.50

- (xiii) **Other Whitstable – Whitstable Swimming Pool**
Between 7am and 10pm daily:
Any period £1**

**NOTE 1: This fee will be refunded on admission to users of the Swimming Pool.

NOTE 2: The Swimming Pool car park is not available for holders of Whitstable Business User or Residents' Permits.

- (xiv) **Park and Ride Service**
New Dover Road, Sturry Road and Wincheap, Canterbury
per day or part thereof £2.50

- (xv) **Charges for Public Service Vehicles and Commercial Vehicles exceeding 2.5 tonnes** unladen weight (as permitted):
Canterbury Coach Park and Kingsmead car park (coaches, minibuses, motor caravans)
Per 12 hours £10
William Street and Neptune, Herne Bay and Tankerton Road, Whitstable
per day or part thereof £3

- (xvi) **All other car parks** Free
(Except those referred to in Part A (xi))

- (xvii) **Permits – all prices are per annum and inclusive of VAT.**

- Business User**
Canterbury reserved space £766
Canterbury £605
Castle Street £715
Herne Bay and Whitstable £102
Whitstable Harbour £80
Accommodation permits – available at £1.50 each and a Canterbury 24 hour permit available at £5 each with minimum purchases of 10 and 10% discount if 50 or more are purchased.

Worshippers Permit (available to park a motor car in named car parks for residents of the district, to Quakers resident in Swale district and to Anglican Catholic Church members resident in the Ashford district attending a service of worship on a regular basis)

Free but an administrative charge of £30 per new permit

Residents' off peak permit (limited) (available for residents to park a specified vehicle between 5pm on one day and 9am on the following day and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays in all car parks except for Watling Street, Castle Street, Whitefriars, Kingsmead Leisure Centre and the Park and Ride car parks) £143

Residents' off-street permit (full) (available for residents to park a specified vehicle at any time in all car parks except for Watling Street, Castle Street, Whitefriars, Kingsmead Leisure Centre and the Park and Ride car parks) £511
Castle Street Residents' permit £526
Station Road West car park rail user permit available for rail season ticket holders to park on Mondays to Fridays £80 per month

Residents' permit for residents of Herne Bay and Whitstable for the parking of motor cars in all car parks in Herne Bay and Whitstable respectively other than Whitstable Harbour and the Swimming Pool car parks. £102
School Lane Residents Permit for the parking of a motor car in School Lane car park, Herne £102

- (xvii) **Pay and Display payment card**
Discount of 10% for all pay and display car parks

- (xviii) **Park and Ride payment card**
Discount of 20% for all Park and Ride car parks

- (xix) **Neptune car park parking card, Herne Bay** (for commercial fishermen and regular users to park at any time in that car park).
50% discount rate of normal fee

- (xx) **Administration Fee**
£10 per amendment

- (xxi) **Penalty charge – payable in the event of non or insufficient payment of above fees or any breach of the Order.**
£70 or £50 PROVIDED that the penalty charge shall be reduced to £35 or £25 if payment is received by the Director of Resources within 14 days of the date on which the penalty charge was issued (or any other amount recommended by the Secretary of State for the time being and approved by Members of the Council.)

(NOTE: The above charges apply **every** day of the week including Bank Holidays unless stated).

Any of the car parks listed above, or parts thereof, may be closed by the Council when required for a purpose of the Council or authorised by them.

A copy of the Order may be examined at the Council's Offices as follows:

Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent	Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm
Herne Bay Divisional Office, William Street, Herne Bay	Monday to Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm Saturday 9.30am to 1pm

If you wish to question the validity of the Order, or any provision contained in it, on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the 1984 Act or on the grounds that any requirement of any Act or of any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from 10 February 2012, apply to the High Court of this purpose.

Dated this 19th day of February 2012.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

**MANOR POUND LANE, BRABOURNE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Manor Pound Lane, Brabourne, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 10 weeks.

The road will be closed in phases, as detailed below.

PHASE 1 - between the junctions with Canterbury Road and Lees Road, from 20 February 2012 for up to 3 weeks.

The alternative route is via Canterbury Road, Plain Road, Bridge Road and Lees Road.

PHASE 2 - between the junctions with Lees Road and Green Lane, from 12 March 2012 for up to 3 weeks then

PHASE 3 - from 16 April for up to 2 weeks.

The alternative route is via Weekes Lane, Pilgrims Way, Stock Lane and Canterbury Road.

The break in these works allows the road to be re-opened during Easter.

The dates of the phases are approximate guidelines, and may vary according to weather and ground conditions. The exact dates will be notified to local residents and signposted on site.

**A2042 ROMNEY MARSH ROAD, ASHFORD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make Order prohibiting through traffic on A2042 Romney Marsh Road, Ashford, as shown below.

The road will be closed from 5 March 2012 for up to 4 nights, between 9.00 pm and 5.00 am each night.

The closure will be between the junctions with Norman Road and Victoria Road / Beaver Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between Romney Marsh Road and Ashford.

The alternative route is via Victoria Road, Leacon Road, B2229 Leacon Road, Beaver Lane and Norman Road.

**SCHOOL HILL, WAREHORNE, ASHFORD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of water mains renewal works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on School Hill, Warehorne, Ashford, on or after 5 March 2012 for up to 13 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with B2067 Ashford Road and Spot House Lane.

The alternative route is via Spot House Lane, Woodchurch Road, Malthouse Lane and B2067 Warehorne Road.

**TILE LODGE ROAD, CHARING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of drainage improvement works to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Tile Lodge Road, Charing, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Tile Lodge Bungalow and Warren Houses.

The alternative routes are via Charing Heath Road, A20 Maidstone Road, Station Road, Charing Heath Road and Egerton Road or via Charing Heath Road, A20 Ashford Road, Malthouse Hill, Lenham Forestall Road and Church Hill.

The planned closure times are between between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm each day with the road re-opened outside these hours.

Access will be maintained whenever it is safe to do so, but there may be times when this is not possible, due to the use of machinery.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

DANE JOHN FOOTBRIDGE, CANTERBURY (RESTRICTIONS ON PEDESTRIANS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to replace the parapet rails on the footbridge, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to close Dane John Footbridge, Canterbury, as shown below.

It is planned that the footbridge will be closed on Sunday 11th March and Sunday 18th March 2012 between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The alternative route for pedestrians is via Dane John Gardens subway under A28 Rhodaus Town and Station Road East.

**FAULKNERS LANE, HARBLEDOWN
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of bridge refurbishment works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Faulkners Lane, Harbledown, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the bridge over the A2 Dover Road.

The alternative route is via Pilgrim's Lane, Bigbury Road, Howfield Lane, A28 Ashford Road, Thanington Road, Wincheap, A2050 Rheims Way, Harbledown By-pass, Chartham Hatch Road, Church Hill and Faulkners Lane.

**WICKHAM ROAD, WICKHAMBREAUX
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of repairs to the riverside embankment to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wickham Road, Wickhambreaux, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Drill Lane and Mill Close.

The alternative route is via Wickham Lane, The Street, Wingham Road, A257 Canterbury Road, High Street, Preston Hill, Preston Road, Preston Lane, The Street, and Grove Road.

The planned closure times are between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm each weekday with the road re-opened outside these hours.

**A2050 NEW DOVER ROAD, BRIDGE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of essential repairs to the A2 overbridge, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A2050 New Dover Road, Bridge, on or after 28 February 2012 for up to 4 nights, between 8.00 pm and 6.00 am.

New Dover Road will be closed Canterbury-bound between the A2 on-slip to and including the A2 Overbridge.

This is in conjunction with a Highways Agency closure of the Canterbury-bound off-slip of the A2 at this junction.

There will be no access into Canterbury from the A2 or Bridge via New Dover Road.

The alternative route is via A2 Dover Road, A28 Wincheap, Pin Hill, Rhodaus Town, Upper Bridge Street, A2050 St George's Place and New Dover Road.

Traffic joining the A2 from Canterbury will be unaffected.

**STURRY LEVEL CROSSING, CANTERBURY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of essential works to replace the rails at the level crossing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sturry Level Crossing, Canterbury, on or after 10 March 2012 as shown below

A28 Mill Road, Sturry will be closed for a distance of approximately 30 metres either side of the level crossing.

The road will be closed from Saturday 10 March 2012 at 1.15 am until Monday 12 March 2012 at 4.00 am.

The alternative routes are

Light vehicles and buses via Sturry Hill, A291 Herne Bay Road, Sweechgate, Shalloak Road, Broad Oak Road, Vauxhall Road, A28 Sturry Road and Mill Road.

All Vehicles over 7.5 T (except buses) via Sturry Hill, A291 Herne Bay Road, Canterbury Road, A299 Thanet Way, A290 Clapham Hill, Pean Hill, Honey Hill, Bleau Common, Bleau Hill, London Road, A2050 Rheims Way, A28 Ring Road, Sturry Road and Mill Road

Temporary provision will be made for pedestrians during these works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

**BLenheim ROAD, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of essential sewer repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Blenheim Road, Deal, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Queen Street and Wellington Road.

The alternative route is via Queen Street, Broad Street, Beach Street, South Street and Wellington Road.

The One Way order in respect of Wellington Road will be suspended to allow access from Victoria Road to Blenheim Road.

CATTLE MARKET, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cattle Market, Sandwich, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Moat Sole to the junction with Cattle Market (by the HSBC Bank).

The alternative route is via Moat Sole, Woodnesborough Road, St Bart's Road, and New Street (plus Hamet Street, Strand Street, High Street, The Chain and Galiard Street in reverse).

**LOWER ROAD, RIVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER FEBRUARY 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lower Road, River, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Pavilion Meadow and Minnis Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Alkham Road and Minnis Lane.

The alternative route for **light vehicles** is via Alkham Road, London Road, Crabble Road, Lewisham Road and Minnis Lane.

All vehicles over 11' 6" high should use Lower Road, High Street, and London Road (Temple Ewell) in addition to the above route, to avoid the low bridge in Alkham Road.

**SHEPHERDSWELL ROAD, EYTHORNE, DOVER
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Shepherdswell Road, Eythorne, Dover, on or after 5 March 2012 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junction with Church Hill / Shooters Hill and Eythorne Court.

There will be no through access between Shepherdswell and Eythorne.

The alternative route is via Long Lane & Barfestone Road via the un-named road linking them, and Church Hill.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

**CROWN LANE, SHORNE
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic in Crown Lane, Shorne, with the junctions of Forge Lane and the Street.

The Order will become effective on 7th March 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 day, these restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

Access traffic will be directed to pass the works via the adjacent single track carriageway between The Street and Crown Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Essential carriageway repairs.

**CROWN LANE, SHORNE
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council Has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic in Crown Lane, Shorne, with the junctions of Forge Lane and the Street.

The Order will become effective on 7th March 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 day, these restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

Access traffic will be directed to pass the works via the adjacent single track carriageway between The Street and Crown Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Essential carriageway repairs.

HALL ROAD, NORTHFLEET (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Hall Road, Northfleet at the junction with Old Perry Street and Coldharbour Road.

The Order will become effective on, 20th February 2012 will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; Hall Road at the above junction will be closed on the 20th and 21st February 2012 and again on 19th March 2012. The closure will be overnight from 20:00hrs until 06:00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route during the above restriction will be via: Painter Ash Lane, Dene Holm Road and Coldharbour Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway Resurfacing.

ROUND STREET, COBHAM- (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council Has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Round Street, Cobham from the junction's of Sole Street to Jeskyns Road.

The Order will become effective on, 20th February 2012 will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; and last 3 weeks from the hours of 08:00am - 17:00pm. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Church Road, Henhurst Road, Jeskyns Road and Sole Street.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching works.

Borough of Gravesham and Dartford

**HARVEL ROAD, MEOPHAM
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic in Harvel Road, Meopham with the junctions of Waterlow Road to White House Lane.

The Order will become effective on 5th March 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks between the hours of 08:00 to 17:00. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: White Horse Lane, Harvel Street, Whitehill Road, The Street, A227 Wrotham Road and Gravesend Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching works.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A226 THAMES WAY, A2260 (PART) AND A2 (PART)
DARTFORD & GRAVESHAM)
(24 HOUR CLEARWAY) ORDER 2012
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

The Council of the County of Kent in exercise of their powers under Sections 1(1), 2(1) and 4(1) of the Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers,

and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Schedule 9 to the Act, hereby intends to make the following Order:-

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a clearway on the following road or lengths of road;

- the A226 road from the Thames Way roundabout junction with Stonebridge Road and Grove Road at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6147074704 to its junction with Springhead Road at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6238073451;
 - the A226 road from its junction with the A226 Thames Way at the Ebbsfleet Gateway at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6182073888 to the junction with the A2 on slip at the Ebbsfleet Link Roundabout B at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6149772779;
 - the spur road from the Southfleet Road roundabout junction with the A2260 and the A2 off slip at the Ebbsfleet Link Roundabout C at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6124072871 in a westerly direction for a distance of 85 metres to Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6116472907

Full details of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map illustrating the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours in the offices of the Dartford Borough Council Civic Centre Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR, Gravesham Borough Council Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU, and Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

If you wish to support or object to the proposals you should write to the Traffic Schemes and MHF Manager at Kent Highway Services, Unit 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk stating the name of the order and your reasons, by not later than 12 noon on 19th March 2012.

IGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BRISHING LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Brishing Lane from Joy Wood to Heath Road on or after Saturday 25th February 2012 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via B2163 Heath Road, Plough Wents Road, A274 Sutton Road, Wallis Avenue.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to carry out construction of a new footway. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Andy Padgham on 08458 247 800.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(CARING LANE, LEEDS/THURNHAM)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Caring Lane on or after Monday 5th March 2012 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Forge Lane, Old Mill Road, A20 Ashford Road, Otham Street, Caring Road.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for cabling works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Rachel Cross of Ashtead Plant Hire Company Ltd on 03700 500792.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

COBDEN ROAD, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Cobden Road at the junction with Quakers Hall Lane.

The Order will become effective on 04 March 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 09 March 2012 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Quakers Hall Lane, St Johns Hill, Holly Bush Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the

installation of floor panels to a new development.

ROWDOW LANE, OTFORD - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Rowdow Lane, Otford from

Birchin Cross Road and Pilgrims Way.

The Order will become effective on 19th February 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 23rd February 2012 and will last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Rowdow Lane, Fackenden Lane, Shoreham Road, Pilgrims Way East.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate replacement powerlines.

VARIOUS ROADS, SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Sevenoaks as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 20th February 2012. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Road Name: Cranleigh Drive, Swanley
Extent: South of junction with Charnock
Dates: 20th February 2012 for 3 weeks
Dversion: Cranleigh Drive and Court Crescent

Road Name: Morleys Road, Sevenoaks Weald
Extent: Entire length
Dates: 5th March 2012 for 2 weeks
Dversion: River Hill, Gracious Lane, Hubbards Hill, Glebe Road and Morleys Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate drainage works on behalf of Kent County Council Highways.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

**CHURCH ROAD, NEW ROMNEY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to install a new water meter and pipework, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Road, New Romney, on or after 5 March 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Tritton Lane and Church Approach.

The alternative route is via Church Lane, Wiles Avenue, Marsh Crescent, The Churchlands and Church Road.

DUCK STREET, ELHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of electricity cable repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Duck Street, Elham, on or after 5 March 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of St Mary's Church.

The alternative routes are

EASTBOUND via The Square, Pound Lane, Vicarage Lane, Lickpot Hill, Standard Hill Top, Running Hill and Duck Street

WESTBOUND via Running Hill, Standard Hill Top, Lickpot Hill, Oak Hill, Bereforstal Hill, Canterbury Road, St Mary's Road and The Square.

**PILGRIMS WAY, MONKS HORTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a water supply to a new development, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pilgrims Way, Monks Horton, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Hempton Lodge Farm.

There will be no access for through traffic between Monks Horton Cottages and the junction with Horton Downs.

The alternative route is via B2068 Stone Street (Hempton Hill), Stone Street and Horton Downs.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

**A250 HIGH STREET, MARINE TOWN, SHEERNESS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of phone duct laying across the road, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A250 High Street, Marine Town, Sheerness, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 2 nights, between 7.00 pm and 6.00 am.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with A250 Cross Street (Bridge Road).

The alternative route is via High Street, Broadway, A250 Trinity Road, Millennium Way and Cross Street (Bridge Road).

**RUINS BARN ROAD, TUNSTALL
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of cabling to provide new phone service, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ruins Barn Road, Tunstall, on or after 22 February 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Oakwood House and Oakwood Farm.

The alternative route is via Broad Oak Road, Bottom Pond Road and Bexon Lane.

**WATERHAM ROAD, HERNHILL
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to re-build a culvert, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Waterham Road, Hernhill, on or after 5 March 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with the A299.

The alternative route is via A299 Thanet Way and Highstreet Road.

HIGHWAYS - Districts of Thanet & Dover

**A256 RAMSGATE ROAD, SANDWICH & SANDWICH ROAD/RICHBOROUGH WAY, RAMSGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

For the safety of the public during demolition works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic and pedestrians as detailed below, on or after Sunday 11 March 2012 for up to 1 day.

The closure should be completed within one hour during the morning, as signposted on site.

If it is not possible for these works to go ahead on 11 March 2012, they will be deferred until one of the following 2 Sundays.

The A256 Ramsgate Road, Sandwich & Sandwich Road / Richborough Way, Ramsgate, will be closed in the vicinity of Richborough Port.

There will be no access for through traffic between the north junction with A256 Sandwich By-pass and the new Sevenscore Roundabout.

The alternative route will be indicated by appropriate signage on the day.

Public Footpath EE42 will be closed from where the exclusion zone meets the footpath, as shown by signs and barriers on site.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

BOOTH PLACE, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a new electricity supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Booth Place, Margate, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the rear of 24 Dane Hill Row.

Access will be maintained from either direction up to the point

CAMDEN ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of maintenance to underground structures, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Camden Road, Ramsgate, on or after 5 March 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 7.

The alternative route is via Abbots Hill, Cottage Road and Hibernia Street.

**FOADS LANE, CLIFFS END, RAMSGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of remedial drainage works in connection with the East Kent Access Project, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Foads Lane (Foads Hill), Cliffs End, Ramsgate, on or after 7 March 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to the north of the level crossing.

The alternative route is via Cliffs End Road, A256 Sandwich Road, Lord of the Manor Interchange, A299 Canterbury Road West and Foads Hill.

Pedestrian access will be maintained across the level crossing.

**QUEEN STREET & CECIL SQUARE, MARGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of essential urgent carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Queen Street & Cecil Square, Margate, on or after 20 February 2012 for up to 4 nights, between 7.00 pm and 1.00 am.

The roads will be closed in phases between the junctions with High Street and Cecil Street / Hawley Street.

The alternative routes are

Via Hawley Street, Trinity Hill, Trinity Square, Northdown Road, Zion Place, Fort Crescent, Fort Hill, The Parade, Marine Drive and Marine Gardens.

Or via Cecil Street, Hawley Square, Churchfield Place, Churchfields, (plus High Street, A255 Ramsgate Road, and Queens Avenue for westbound traffic), Eaton Road, Belgrave Road and Marine Gardens.

High Street will be closed at the junction with Marine Gardens / Queen Street. There will be no through access from The Parade, and through traffic should follow the first diversion listed above. There will be no access to the pedestrianised section of High Street.

VICTORIA ROAD, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Victoria Road, Margate, on or after 5 March 2012 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases between the junctions with Addington Road and St John's Road.

The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended in respect of Victoria Road between Addington Road and St John's Road to allow access up to the point of closure.

The alternative route is via Thanet Road, Park Crescent Road, Addiscombe Road, St Peter's Footpath, Church Street and Victoria Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(ISMAYS ROAD, IGHTHAM)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Ismays Road Ightham, outside Tree Tops on or after Tuesday 6th March 2012 when required for a period of up to 2 Days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Coach Road, Sandy lane and Common Road and vice versa.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused but it is necessary to enable access for polling works. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Louise Skull on 03700500792.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - City of Canterbury

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDERS

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FOOTPATH CB151A (PARTS) LITTLEBOURNE)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND
STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDERS NO.1 & NO.2, 2012

The above named Orders made on 27 January 2012 under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert:-

- i) The entire width of that length of **Public Footpath CB151A** which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath CB151A at NGR TR 1905 5693 (Point A) and runs in a south westerly thence southerly direction for 128 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath CB151A and Public Footpath CB152 at NGR TR 1898 5683 (Point B).
- ii) The entire width of that length of **Public Footpath CB151A** which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath CB151A at NGR TR 1951 5744 (Point C) and runs in a south south westerly thence westerly direction for 144 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath CB151A at NGR TR 1940 5737 (Point D).

and will provide:-

- i) A new length of **Public Footpath CB151A** with a width of 3.0 metres which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath CB151A at NGR TR 1905 5693 (Point A) and runs in a southerly direction for 49 metres to NGR TR 1905 5688 (Point C), south south westerly for 24 metres to NGR TR 1904 5686 (Point D), south westerly for 45 metres to NGR TR 1901 5683 (Point E), thence west north westerly through west south westerly for 32 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath CB151A and Public Footpath CB152 at NGR TR 1898 5683 (Point B).
- ii) A new length of **Public Footpath CB151A** with a width of 3.0 metres which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath CB151A at NGR TR 1951 5744 (Point C) and runs in a west south westerly thence south westerly direction for 129 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath CB151A at NGR TR 1940 5737 (Point D).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

Copies of the Orders and the Maps have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Orders and Maps may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Orders may be sent in writing to Laura Wilkins at the Kent County Council (address as below) not later than 29 March 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

PROW - District of Dover

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR
THE COUNTY OF KENTTHE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FOOTPATH EE399 (PART) AT TILMANSTONE)
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on 17th January 2012 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting the entire width of that section of public footpath EE399 which commences at its connection with public footpath EE398 (point A on the Order plan) and runs in a northerly direction for 11 metres and then in a north-westerly direction for 44 metres to NGR TR 3000 5097 (between the points A-B on the Order plan), and by adding a public footpath numbered EE399 with a width of 1.2 metres, which

commences at the aforementioned point A and runs in a north-westerly direction for 39 metres along the southern edge of the woodland shave to NGR TR 3000 5095 (between the points A-C on the Order plan).

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FOOTPATH EE402B (PART) AT TILMANSTONE)
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on 17th January 2012 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting the entire width of that section of public footpath EE402B which commences on the west side of Willow Woods Road opposite the entrance to West Studdal Farm and runs in a north-westerly direction for 51 metres to NGR TR 3062 5000 (between the points A-B on the Order plan), and by adding a public footpath numbered EE402B with a width of 1.2 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs in a north-north-westerly direction for approximately 40 metres to NGR TR 3064 5000 (between the points A-C on the Order plan).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PG or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Mrs Maria McLaughlan at the Kent County Council (address as below) not later than 30th March 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

PROW - Borough of Maidstone

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER
TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH KM87
IN THE PARISH OF OTHAM(PUBLIC FOOTPATH KM87)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath KM87, between Titchfield Road and Gore Court Road from the 10th February 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen sooner.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via KM87, Wooley Rd, KB29, Sutton Rd and Gore Court Rd and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: John Pelham
Tel: 0845 345 0210

PROW - District of Shepway

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR
THE COUNTY OF KENTTHE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FOOTPATH HE123 AT ACRISE)
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on 17th January 2012 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting the entire width of that section of public footpath HE123 which commences at its connection with public footpath HE122 and runs in

a south-easterly direction for 40 metres to NGR TR 2000 4265 (between points A-B on the Order plan), and by adding a public footpath numbered HE123 with a width of 1.2 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs in an east-south-easterly direction for 30 metres to NGR TR 2000 4267 (between points A-C on the Order plan).

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FOOTPATH HL5 AT LYDD)
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on 17th January 2012 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting the entire width of that section of public footpath HL5 which commences at NGR TR 0489 2100 and runs in an east-north-easterly direction for approximately 112 metres to NGR TR 0500 2102 (between the points A-B on the Order plan), and by adding a public footpath numbered HL5 with a width of 1.2 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs in an east-south-easterly direction for 170 metres to NGR TR 0500 1703 (between the points A-E-F-D on the Order plan).

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FOOTPATH HL29 AT LYDD)
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on 17th January 2012 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting the entire width of that section of public footpath HL29 which commences at its connection with public footpath HL18 and runs in an east-south-easterly direction for 567 metres to NGR TR 0500 1700 (between points A-B on the Order plan), and by adding a public footpath numbered HL29 with a width of 1.2 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs in an east-south-easterly direction for 554 metres to NGR TR 0500 1703 (between points A-C on the Order plan).

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FOOTPATH HM157 AT DYMCURCH)
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on 17th January 2012 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting the entire width of that section of public footpath HM157 which commences just south of the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway line at NGR TR 1022 2991 and runs in a northerly direction for 88 metres to NGR TR 1021 3000 (between points A-B on the Order plan), and by adding a public footpath numbered HM157 with a width of 1.2 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs in a north-north-easterly direction for 88 metres to NGR TR 1024 3000 (between the points A-C on the Order plan).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Shepway District Council, The Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to MRS MARIA MCLAUCHLAN at the Kent County Council (address as below) not later than 30th March 2012. Please state the grounds on which it is made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of

submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

PROW - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH WC174 (PART) HAWKHURST)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND
STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above named Order made on 27 January 2012 under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath WC174 which commences at its junction with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WC174 at NGR TQ 7615 3303 (Point A) and runs in a west south westerly direction for 46 metres, south south easterly for 63 metres, easterly for 23 metres, south south easterly for 26 metres, thence east south easterly through south south easterly for 166 metres to its connection with Potter's Lane at NGR TQ 7628 3282 (Point B) and will provide a new length of Public Footpath WC174 which commences at its junction with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WC174 at NGR TQ 7615 3303 (Point A) and runs in a north westerly direction for 95 metres to NGR TQ 7623 3298 (Point C), southerly for 8 metres to NGR TQ 7624 3297 (Point D), east south easterly for 37 metres to NGR TQ 7627 3296 (Point E), southerly through south easterly for 116 metres to NGR TQ 7629 3285 (Point F), south westerly for 11 metres to NGR TQ 7628 3284 (Point G), thence south south easterly for 26 metres to a new connection with Potter's Lane at NGR TQ 7629 3282 (Point H), 12.5 metres from the existing connection at NGR TQ 7628 3282 (Point B). There will be pedestrian gates at NGR TQ 7627 3296 (Point E) and NGR TQ 7629 3285 (Point F) which will conform to BS 5709:2006. Please see Part II of the Order Schedule for details of the width.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of The Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN11 2AB or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Laura Wilkins at the Kent County Council (address as below) not later than 19 March 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 19th February 2012

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044



ON THE FRONT

Restaurant helps Dover hotel earn four-star grading

SEE PAGE 51



This bunch paca punch but they're so friendly

SEE PAGE 52

Kent Weekend

The Beat goes on

The ultimate homage to the Fab Four?

SEE PAGE 53



PLUS: A selection of pubs with good taste - **food and drink p50** Beware the lure of social media if you're looking to rent a home - **property p55** The new Zafira Tourer offers seven whole seats of style - **driving p59**

THE INTERVIEW

Gilbert O'Sullivan

Gilbert O'Sullivan's back on the road again... naturally

Joe Bill talks to Waterford's favourite son, who has just released his greatest-hits album to coincide with a musical career spanning 45 years

IN TERMS of musical impact on the world over the past 45 years, Gilbert O'Sullivan has been a phenomenon. With more than 20 albums, 16 of which bagged a place in the top 40, six No 1s and the effective commandeering of an American audience, O'Sullivan could be regarded one of the most successful artists in modern musical history.

The 65-year-old was born in Waterford, Ireland, before moving to England with his parents when he was 15.

O'Sullivan attended Swindon Art College in his late teens and it was there that he formed his first bands and encountered Rick Davies, who went on to create the band Supertramp.

After stints with The Doodles and The Prefects, the Irishman went solo and 45 years on is celebrating his career with the release of his greatest-hits album, *A Singer And His Songs*.

And, as with every O'Sullivan album release, a tour is never far behind.

"I sort of work in two-year cycles," he said. "I will be in the studio recording a new album, then I will promote it and then tour it."

"And then we start over again."

Despite having a huge catalogue of songs, O'Sullivan still finds it relatively easy as to what to pick for his live tours.

He said: "Well, in 45 years there have been a lot of songs, but the great thing is, with all that work behind you, you can pick, choose and change what you play."

"There are the old favourites and popular songs that will, of course, be put in that people want, but there are some album tracks you can pick and choose from which people may not have been expecting."

"In a two-hour show you can put in some classics and some album tracks that are often requested, as well as some new material, so it is a good mix."

The prolific songwriter burst on to the scene in the late 60s after changing his name from Raymond to Gilbert in a play on words from composers Gilbert and Sullivan.

In 1970 the Irishman bagged his first top-10 hit with *Nothing Rhymed*, which also gained a No 1 in Holland, along with his second single, *Under The Blanket Go*.

His first album, entitled *Himself*, was released the following year, but it was his 1972 hit *Alone Again, Naturally* that was to propel the singer to stardom.

The self-penned ballad reached No 3 in the UK but went on to smash the American chart, claiming the top spot for six weeks and selling more than two million copies.

After further successful stints at the top of



THEN AND NOW: Singer-songwriter O'Sullivan had his first top-10 hit in 1970 with *Nothing Rhymed*

the charts in Japan, Canada and New Zealand. *Alone Again, Naturally* earned O'Sullivan his first gold disc and a Grammy Award nomination for song of the year.

Even now, 45 years on, the song is still much sought after, being used in an episode of *The Simpsons* and in films *Stuck On You*, *Stuart Little 2* and *The Virgin Suicides* and in BBC

drama *Life On Mars*.

O'Sullivan said: "Yeah, I have had songs featured in shows. But you have to be careful about what you say yes to. I don't want them to be just used in anything."

"One company for washing-machines came to me asking to use a track. They offered a lot of money, but I said no because I didn't want

my song to be used on the advert, so you have to be wary."

O'Sullivan went on to write many more hits, collaborating with a number of other famous artists, but one particular duet with a very famous jazz singer has stayed with him as his favourite memory.

He said: "I absolutely loved working with Peggy Lee – she was unbelievable. That duet would have to be my favourite – she was my favourite to work with of all time."

O'Sullivan has family in Kent and regularly visits the county from his home in Jersey... when he is not touring, that is.

He said: "I still love touring – if you don't love it, then you shouldn't do it. I wouldn't ever want to just get a group back together for the money, say. It has to be for the love of doing it."

"When you're touring, you have to remember that each night you perform is the first time that some of these people have seen the show. So every performance has to be up there."

"For example, I have had one couple who have come to see me a number of times and have asked for different songs. Some of them I haven't played for years, so I actually have to go back with the band and relearn it all to keep it fresh."

Perhaps the best tribute to O'Sullivan's work comes from other artists who have not only cited him as an influence but covered his songs for themselves.

Elton John, Bobby Darin, The Feeling, Nina Simone, Har Mar Superstar, Andy Williams, The Pet Shop Boys, Shirley Bassey, Tom Jones and Morrissey are just some of the diverse names to have made their own versions of O'Sullivan numbers.

With an army of fans around the world that adores every album he produces, don't expect O'Sullivan to be alone again any time soon.

■ Gilbert O'Sullivan will be appearing at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford, on Tuesday, March 20. Tickets are available from the box office on 01322 220000 and online at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

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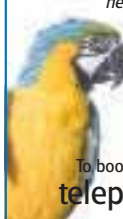
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FOOD & DRINK

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The Black Pig Staple

Why here...

The Black Pig is a fine 16th-century timbered building with a large garden. Its modern comfortable restaurant has an extensive range of home-cooked meals, using locally-sourced food.

On the menu...

There is a Gambian charity night on Saturday, February 25, at 7pm, with Gambian food and African music and dancing. The cost is £12.50 for the hot buffet. Feel free to dress for the occasion.

How to book...

Barnsole Road, Staple, near Canterbury CT3 1LE
phone: 01304 813000
web: www.theblackpig.co.uk

An astonishing multitude of dining delights

THE picture-perfect public house is one of the staple ingredients of Kentish culture. There is usually a

small dog running around, a warm fire in winter or a fresh breeze in summer, thirst-quenching ales, wines and local juices. But more than that, the country pub has become a place of fine dining and culinary expertise.

It is our meeting place, somewhere to relax as well as have fun, and it is a place to celebrate weddings or remember those who have left us. Pubs and restaurants are the centre of the television-soap universe and the scene of historical events.

It is a fact that Kent's eateries are now attracting top chefs with Michelin-star experience. In the last couple of years, renowned chefs have

headed to the hostelrys of Kent to carve out new centres of foody excellence, often choosing the more rural locations to kick-start their culinary campaigns.

Our rolling hills, leafy villages and fields of produce provide the perfect place for these experts to pick and choose from the best local ingredients and bring them to our plates.

Take a stroll, build your appetite and take in the sights and smells Kent has to offer before you taste it, too.

There are so many of these eateries dotted about our delightful downland, mysterious marshes and beautiful beaches, it is almost impossible to know where to start.

So just in case you're new to the area or just looking for something a little different we offer here six of the best...



The Acorn Inn Birchington

Why here...

The Acorn Inn is a friendly, family-run pub in the heart of the seaside village of Birchington-on-Sea. Hosts Peter and Cath offer a warm welcome to a pub that has existed since 1748.

On the menu...

A good selection of fish and meat dishes on the à la carte menu, where prices can range from £4.95 to £18.95. Every Thursday is steak night and every Sunday roasts are served from midday to 4.30pm.

How to book...

The Acorn Inn, 6 Park Lane, Birchington CT7 0AW
phone: 01843 841196
Book to avoid disappointment!



The Red Lion Hernhill

Why here...

Located in the picturesque village of Hernhill, there is a warm, cosy atmosphere, with quality home-cooked food. Surrounded in history, the pub dates back to the 1300s and still has original features. It offers a selection of traditional English food alongside the frequently-changing seasonal specials. Choose a drink from a varied selection of wines, beers and real ales. Clay-pigeon

shooting day is on Saturday, March 17.

On the menu...

There is a traditional Sunday roast every week; steak nights are Wednesday and Thursday; pensioner's special is every Wednesday lunchtime... or why not choose a meal from the à la carte menu served daily from Monday through to Saturday?

How to book...

Crockham Lane, Hernhill, Faversham ME13 9JR
phone: 01227 751207
web: www.theredlion.org

Walnut Tree Aldington

Why here...

Warm, friendly pub and restaurant in the lovely village of Aldington serving affordable lunches Monday to Friday from midday-2pm, with starters at £1.50, mains at £3.50 and desserts at £1.50.

On the menu...

Evening meals Tuesday-Thursday from 6.30pm; two courses for £10, including ribs and grillstone steak. Friday-Saturday evening 15 per cent off bill. Sunday lunch £6.50, midday, choice of five meats.

How to book...

Walnut Tree Inn, Forge Hill, Aldington TN25 7DT
phone: 01233 720298



London Beach Tenterden

Why here...

The London Beach offers one of the best à la carte menus in the county. The menus change on a regular basis but stick to the principle of serving only Kentish produce. The sophisticated and classy restaurant has a relaxed ambience with beautiful panoramic views across the Weald of Kent. Deep in the rolling hills of the countryside, this gem really

has something to offer every palate.

On the menu...

Start your meal with local game terrine, home-made chutney and toasted pistachio nuts. Follow with pan-roasted venison steak with puy lentils, fondant potato, braised red cabbage and mustard jus. Top off a meal with steamed syrup sponge pudding with vanilla crème anglaise.

How to book...

London Beach Country Hotel and Spa, Ashford Road, Tenterden TN30 6HX
phone: 01580 766279



World's Wonder Warehorne

Why here...

The World's Wonder sits in a beautiful area of countryside and offers a true rural eating experience. The pub is just a short walk from Romney Marsh, sitting between Hamstreet and Tenterden.

On the menu...

The food is both cooked on the premises and sourced locally, with free-range meat and poultry supplied by a local farmer. All dishes are home-made, including the famous rabbit-and-bacon pie.

How to book...

Bookings taken through the website, www.worldswonder.co.uk; alternatively, you can phone 01233 732431

FOOD & DRINK

An underwhelming night for the ladies

A GIRLS' night out seemed the perfect opportunity to try eating somewhere different, so for once my friends and I ventured out of Maidstone town centre to the more rural setting of The Cock Inn at Boughton Monchelsea.

Our taxi-driver's decision to go on a rather circuitous route meant we arrived late for our booking, but the friendly staff at the pub were still very polite and ushered us to our table in the half-filled restaurant area.

Tastefully decorated with traditional beams and unusual pictures, there was a warm feel to the pub – probably thanks to the roaring fire, which was most welcome on a bitter Saturday night in February.

Ravenous, we dived into our appetisers of roasted garlic bulb in balsamic vinegar (£4.10) and olives (£3.30). The garlic was ordered more out of curiosity than anything else but devoured as swiftly as possible while we struggled to work out how to pluck the cloves from their paper shell with cocktail sticks.

Both dishes were much as expected but a little on the small side given their price tags.

Moving on, for starters we chose a traditional prawn cocktail (£5.45), grilled field mushroom with pâté and blue cheese (£6.95) and beetroot and grilled halloumi salad (£6).

The prawn cocktail was easily the best-looking dish, with a large portion of prawns. Sadly, however, their watery consistency gave away what I suspected was their frozen history and meant the dish failed to live up to the early promise.

My field mushroom was huge and very tasty, but again I felt it let itself down a little – the blue cheese was more than enough of a filling so that the pâté rather failed to hold its own, being barely noticeable in the overall dish.

Easily the best of our starters was the grilled halloumi, with the contrasting hot and cold elements keeping this simple dish interesting.

Our hunger slightly abated, we looked forward to better things from our main course.

The vegetarian with us was a little disappointed to have to retrace her steps halfway through the pub to find the board with her choices. This had led to the awkwardness of loitering near other diners and hurrying to make a decision, so ensuring she could barely remember her options or what her choice entailed upon returning to the table.

RESTAURANT REVIEW



At £11, she opted for what she believed to be a Brie-and-hazelnut Wellington, accompanied by chips. A good-sized meal, this was tasty and certainly well cooked but unexciting.

Our other two dishes were 10oz ribeye steak (£18) with peppercorn sauce (£2.50) and chips and hot smoked-salmon fillet with potatoes and vegetables (£13.95).

The steak disappointingly came out rare instead of medium rare, but as one of the best pieces of fish I've had for a long time the salmon was a surprising contrast to the rest of our generally underwhelming meal. It was lovely.

Stuffed but not satisfied, we decided to give it one last go with dessert. The two sorbets at £4.50 were as expected, but again we had disappointment, this time with the orange-and-vanilla cheesecake (£5.95). The topping was delicious, but the base was salty and spoiled the overall effect.

Washed down with a bottle of house white and a few soft drinks, and completed with a few coffees, our overall bill of £112.55 meant the meal was just short of £40 per head... which wouldn't have been too bad if our meals had been ever so slightly more remarkable.

Erica Jones

■ The Cock Inn, Heath Road, Boughton Monchelsea ME17 4JD
telephone: 01622 743166; email: cockinnboughtonmonchelsea@hotmail.com

Four stars for Dover Marina

A HOTEL in Dover has been awarded a four-star grading thanks to its sea-view restaurant and services to tourists.

The Best Western Dover Marina Hotel and Spa has just been assessed and awarded the fourth star by holiday-standards authority Quality in Tourism.

Contributing factors included The Waterfront Restaurant, which offers a modern à la carte menu and is open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The restaurant is especially popular on Bombay night (Thursday) with its fine array of Indian food, as well as Sunday lunchtime and the impressive carvery.

Hotel chief Anoob Saban said: "This is an excellent achievement in earning a four-star grading within the first year of the hotel's operation and great credit must go to our staff in delivering the service to visitors as well as to the local people in Dover who are using the hotel for functions, weddings and meetings."

Tourists and local people have also welcomed the availability of Starbucks coffee in The Waterfront Café.

Since opening in March 2011, the hotel has gained a silver award from the Green Business Tourism Scheme, which reflects the policy of protecting the environment.

The Best Western Dover Marina Hotel and Spa is part of the Leaf Hotel Group, joining the other Leaf hotel in the district, the Ramada Dover, as a four-star hotel. For further details, phone 01304 203633.

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Friday 27th April 2012

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Phantom Menace 3D (U)**

The Grey (15)

The Muppets (U)

The Vow (12A)

War Horse (12A)

The Women in Black (12A)

**Ghost Rider 3D : Spirit of
Vengeance (12A)**

**Extremely Loud and
Incredibly Close (12A)**

**AUTISM SCREENING
The Muppets (U)**

**ODEON KIDS
The Smurfs 2D (PG)**

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For times and films, please call the film line on 0871 22 44 007 or visit www.odeon.co.uk

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KENT ATTRACTIONS

To be included on this page, please email
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**Kent County Showground,
Detling**
01622 630975
www.kentshowground.co.uk

VEHICLE fans will be in their element at the Heritage Transport Show And Auction being held at the Kent County Showground on Saturday, March 31, from 10am to 4pm.

The show has been chosen by the M&D And East Kent Bus Company Club to help celebrate its diamond jubilee. It will include bus displays, trade stands and free vintage bus rides, with stops positioned around the showground. Displays will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the MGB Roadster and the Massey Ferguson 35X, as well as 100 years of AEC buses. It is a must for enthusiasts, featuring a rich range of vehicles, stands, competitions and speakers. Tickets are priced at £6.50.

Banksy, Emin or even Hirst? New gallery

Palace Street, Canterbury
Open 9.30am-5pm
01227 766 616
www.lilfordgallery.com

A NEW gallery dedicated to contemporary art has opened in Palace Street, Canterbury. Following success with his art boutique in Castle Street, David Lilford has opened this second gallery, which offers more space for his pieces to be shown to best effect. Lilford opened his Castle Street gallery in July 2000, stocking works ranging from just a few hundred pounds up to £50,000 or more. The new gallery will have pieces from Kent artists like Billy Childish and Tracey Emin as well as pieces from the likes of Banksy and Damien Hirst. Lilford said: "People are welcome to drop in to see what's being displayed even if they are not in the market to buy. There aren't many places in the area where you can view some of the most famous artists in the UK."



Meet the alpacas Woolly wonders await

Kent Life, Maidstone
Open 10am-6pm
01622 763936
www.kentlife.org.uk

HERITAGE farm attraction Kent Life is welcoming three mischievous alpacas this month, the first time the species has been on view at the park. The trio, all just 18 months old, have settled in well and already welcomed visitors during the February half-term. The woolly wonders were brought across from QuarterHouse Alpacas, a breeder on the Kent-Sussex border. Alpaca wool is a useful resource for clothing and Kent has seen an influx of the animals in the last 20 years. Since then, their ability to protect livestock from predators has earned them a greater role in modern farming.

Conspiracies and secrets Talk the Tudors

Dover Castle
Wednesday, February 29
Tickets £30 per person
0870 3331181

IF conspiracy theories are your thing, then a talk from best-selling author about the mysteries of Dover Castle could be right up your ramparts.

East Kent historical author Sarah Gristwood will offer a fascinating look into the world of Tudor conspiracy and cover-ups at Dover Castle in an evening talk on this month. She said: "It's amazing how closely the period mirrored our own. The power of negative or 'black' PR, the actions of agents provocateur... the more you look into the conspiracies of that time, you can see how deep the manipulation was." Referring to her best-selling books, Gristwood will offer an intriguing insight into historical plots.



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STAGE & ARTS

Opera and the power of love Spring concert

Astor Theatre, Deal
Friday, February 24
01304 370 220
www.dealfestival.co.uk

THE first of Deal Festival's spring concerts will feature the brilliant Dominic Harlan on piano and Matthew Sharp, the cellist and baritone. They will be joined by the local participants of an education project entitled Love Music. The youngsters will use workshops to study relationships in music and primarily that between Robert and Clara Schumann and Johannes Brahms, which bound their music together. The pupils will work with leading animator Dominic Harlan and composer Emily Hall before performing their compositions during the concert. Audiences will be delighted that Schumann's Dichterliebe (The Poet's Love) as well as Brahms's E minor Sonata for cello and piano will also be performed. Tickets are priced at £12.



Comedienne by the seaside Josie Long

Horsebridge Centre, Whitstable
Saturday, February 18, at 8pm
01227 281174

JOSIE Long, Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee for 2011, is back with her fifth solo show. It has been described as a comedy gig "about feeling tormented by the world around you, about optimism and despair, but far less serious than that". It'll be a manic round-up of all thoughts and suggestions and will almost certainly have a mini-play involved in which Long performs as every Brontë sister. Tickets to see a truly 'out-there' stand-up making a name for herself are priced at £12 (or £10 for concessions).



Thank you for the music... ABBA tribute

The Orchard, Dartford
Saturday, February 25, at 8pm
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

RELIVE the dazzling 70s and belt out your favourite ABBA songs with top tribute act Sing-a-long-a ABBA. For one night only The Orchard will host a performance that every ABBA fan should see, so get along and thank them for the music one more time! The Swedish supergroup's greatest hits will be performed live with on-screen lyrics for

everyone to join in. As well as the amazing show, the night will include a Dancing Queen competition and free Magic Moment goody-bags. From the producers of the smash hit Sing-a-long-a Sound Of Music, Sing-a-long-a ABBA is the perfect night out for anyone – it is great for hen parties, family groups and office outings or for anyone who has ever strutted their stuff to ABBA on the dance floor in the past 30 years. That's quite a lot of people, then! So strap on your platform boots, dust off your sequins and don't forget to warm up your vocal chords for what is sure to be a Waterloo moment. Tickets are priced at £19, with £2 off for under-16s.

Homage to the Fab Four Beatlemania

The Marlowe, Canterbury
Sunday, March 25
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

THE year of 1962 was a significant one in the history of music. Ringo Starr joined The Beatles, Brian Epstein became their manager, and the band had their first recording session at Abbey Road Studios, prompting one of the greatest developments the world of popular music has ever seen. Exactly 50 years to the day after the Fab Four's radio debut, The Bootleg Beatles start their 20-date UK tour. The band's last tour saw the debut of Adam Hastings as John Lennon, replacing Neil Harrison, who had portrayed Lennon in the Bootlegs since their formation 32 years ago. His performance was met with acclaim by aficionados and fans alike. Having played in front of Sir



Paul McCartney, George Harrison, George Martin and the Queen, The Bootleg Beatles have set the standard for musical homage to the Fab Four, wowing crowds at more than 4,000 gigs around the world. The concerts will feature The Bootleg Beatles performing their renditions of the greatest songs from the entire Beatles catalogue. They will be accompanied by their orchestra, who help them faithfully re-create many of the hits The Beatles never performed live. It really will be a night never to forget.

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HOMES

Social media? The clue lies in the title, agent warns hopeful tenants

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

NEW technology is impacting on all businesses – and property is no exception.

Companies are continually exploiting new trends such as Facebook and Twitter as they become popular – and no one wants to be left behind.

But pitfalls are out there – and some analysts are urging caution.

Sarah Rushbrook, inset, managing director of Rushbrook & Rathbone, a leading property-management agency, believes that social media should be met with caution when it is transferred into the business world.

She said: "The clue is in the title – it is called social media for a reason.

"People are trying to give it a business aptitude and that's where the dangers can lie."

Rushbrook said a trawl through sites by a landlord looking for information on a tenant applicant could reveal misleading data.

She said: "The recent launch of a new application, in particular, where landlords can target potential tenants and check their lifestyle,

background and relationships online I have found to be shocking.

"Although on a positive note it will allow agents and landlords to advertise properties for sale or rent to a large audience, it also opens up an opportunity for landlords to search through potential tenants' personal information and judge what they are going to be like from looking at their photos and interaction with friends.

"This is the bit that concerns me. Many people using the social-network site will play out their whole lives online and have personal information on there that they cannot get rid of.

"A young man might be in a steady relationship now but have photos uploaded by himself or others from a few years back of a lads' holiday, and he might be discarded as a tenant because of it."

Rushbrook said there was a definite need for care.

"Social-media sites offer potential access to a huge personal database of people. The ability to intrude into people's personal space through them allowing access, due to their interest in a property, seems incredibly intrusive," she said.



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Great deals at exclusive development

HOME-HUNTERS looking for an executive home are being advised to act quickly if they want to secure one of the final properties at Leyton Gate, Taylor Wimpey's exclusive gated development in Wilmington, near Dartford.

They are all five-bedroom detached properties, priced from £542,000.

Jason Stokes, sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey South East, said: "Potential buyers should act

now if they want to take advantage of this rare opportunity to own an executive home at a great price."

One of the final five homes on sale at Leyton Gate is the five-bedroom Lindford detached house at Plot Seven.

Priced at £542,000, this home has a spacious living room, a contemporary kitchen/breakfast room with separate utility room, a dining room, private rear garden, a guest cloakroom and an integral double garage.

Upstairs, the first-floor landing leads to an en-suite guest bedroom, three further bedrooms and a main bathroom, while the en-suite master bedroom is on the top floor.

Alternative five-bedroom designs ready to reserve now at Leyton Gate include the 'Birlingham', priced from £675,000, and the 'Ashbury' from £625,000.

Selected properties are available with Taylor Wimpey's easymover scheme.

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First **GEAR**
MOTERING NEWS

- Not everything black and white with new Fiat
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Eco-friendly Passat ticks right boxes ... but does it inspire?

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By **Sam Davison**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

BEFORE I took the wheel of Vauxhall's smart new Zafira Tourer, I had to ask the burning question: what happens to the old Zafira?

It carries on – at least for now – was the simple answer. Though nearing the end of its second generation on the the market, the Zafira remains a midi-MPV top seller and still one of the best at seating seven within a relatively compact body.

So Vauxhall says the old car will continue for as long as people want it – within reason – and a streamlined range that the Tourer is sure to cannibalise for some of its sales.

The Tourer pulls the same seven-up seating trick, but with more luxury and impact, putting Ford's successful sporting seven-seat S-Max under considerable pressure.

Part of this comes from the undoubted style of the newcomer.

You can't often say that about an MPV, but the Zafira Tourer has it in spades. It uses the same styling cues that have made such an impact on Vauxhall's Astra family hatch and the bigger Insignia.

The other big pressure on the S-Max is money, with an entry price of £21,000 for the Tourer undercutting the S-Max by £1,200.

Ah, but can the Tourer outperform the S-Max in one of the most challenging areas for an MPV – driver entertainment?

There's no straight answer here; there's probably not much in it in real world motoring if you choose models with the sports suspension such as the lively SRi spec 165PS (163bhp) 2.0 CDTi diesel (£25,915) I tried.

With a superior cabin and greater versatility, this means that the new Vauxhall blows the Ford away.

Fitted with a start/stop system to cut fuel consumption and emissions, this version should also average more than 50mpg.

However, climb into versions with a standard suspension and there is a hint of the cornering wallow that plagues such high-riding cars – albeit a well controlled tendency and easily outweighed by the Tourer's high comfort levels.

I found this out on a more modest SE 1.4 Turbo petrol model (£24,005), while being astonished at the 140PS (138bhp) of pulling power available from this engine in such a largish vehicle.

Admittedly, the average mpg is about 10 lower than the diesel I mentioned, but it does show how turbocharged petrols may stem the tide of diesel sales.

Finally, a quick word about the Tourer's seating arrangements; the original Zafira was the first big-selling MPV to offer five rear seats that didn't have to be removed laboriously, but the middle row was a simple bench.

In the Tourer's case, all five rear seats are individual and the middle three can be moved fore and aft, tipped, folded and arranged to suit a multitude of variations.



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Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Ford S-Max

Vauxhall's tale of two Zafiras



MAKING BIG WAVES: Vauxhall new Zafira will have nearest rival the Ford S-Max worried – for not only does it offer the same seven-seat comfort with more style and luxury, it's cheaper and a far superior car to drive

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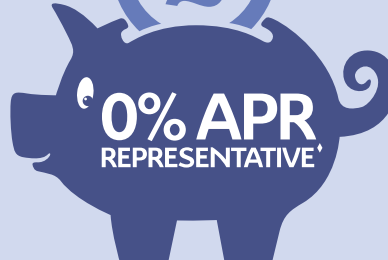
...the less taut standard suspension – but I'm nit-picking about an MPV that isn't your usual 'wallowing galleon under full sail'.

...that Vauxhall's badge is yet to be considered upmarket enough by many to match the Tourer's undoubted quality and sharpness.

...the quality and atmosphere of the cabin, which challenges the premium marques and shows Vauxhall's ambition.

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Miraculous yet unsurprising Passat a chip off the old block

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT IS nothing short of astonishing how far motoring technology has advanced under the pressure of global warming.

Admittedly, this burst of speed makes you wonder whether the carmakers could have got their finger out a bit sooner, but let's not kick them now they are actually doing a good job of driving down emissions and powering up fuel economy.

Take the VW Passat 140PS (138bhp) 2.0 TDI diesel I drove to France the other day. Despite VW's full monty BlueMotion eco package, making the big saloon average around 60mpg – that's supermini economy – and emit just 119g/km of CO₂ thereby incurring no road tax in year one and just 30 quid a year after that, the car will still surge to 62mph in under 10 seconds.

It highlights how the German marque has taken less than five years to turn its BlueMotion eco brand from a driving experience akin to joining a monastic order, to a perfectly palatable way to get around for most of us.

The Passat rides and handles well on its energy-saving tyres, the gearbox does not feel unduly bogged down by silly fuel saving ratios, and the car's aerodynamics make it cut the air as cleanly as possible. The eco-friendly package includes battery recharging via braking and stop/start systems.

So, with its Benefit in Kind and other tax gains, it's not hard to see VW maintaining a healthy 80 per cent of UK Passat sales to company car user choosers.

Just as well, as it's not hard to see what VW has neglected in the latest Passat – style.

When launched early last year, it was supposed to be a whole new generation car – the seventh Passat – but looks far too much like the previous 2005-2010 model, even if VW claims the new car's exterior is completely new apart from the roof.

VW PASSAT 2.0 TDI SE BLUEMOTION: PRICE £22,260

FACT FILE



Image: ★★★

Space: ★★★★★

Value: ★★★★★

Reliability: ★★★★★

How green?: ★★★★★

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A SAVING GRACE: VW has only taken five years for its BlueMotion eco brand to become one of the best engines around, a trick not lost on the new Passat, which uses the latest energy-saving technology on this new car

You really do have to look hard, though, to be convinced that it's anything more than a subtle facelift with a new grille and headlights.

True, there is evidence that the same impeccable sound deadening detail from the latest Golf has also been applied to all that new glass, and the car is a paragon of refinement, but the exterior is still underwhelming.

The same argument could also be applied to the interior, though the quality and arrangement is of high quality, with excellent space and comfort for all.

More importantly perhaps, fleet users love its functionality, durability and ability to cover huge distances without causing stress.

It also has a large boot, though VW reckons the estate car and its cavernous load area will continue to take a slightly larger share of sales – many Brits are turning to estate cars

as an alternative to high and boxy MPVs.

Six-speed manual gearboxes come as standard and that fitted to our 2.0-litre diesel was neat and precise, but all models are also available with VW's excellent DSG twin-clutch auto 'box that can also be driven as a manual – and sips fuel like one.

The DSG will cost you a hefty £1,600 extra, but it's well worth it for mixed-use drivers, who regularly get stuck in traffic and need the ease of the auto option, while also knocking the selector into manual mode when they get a nice open stretch of road where they can swap gears quickly and smoothly via the floor shift or by steering wheel paddles.

On the motorway, of course, it's back to auto in the knowledge that there will be no fuel penalty, as there would be with a conventional automatic.

First GEAR MOTORING NEWS



New Panda is a spot-on deal

FIAT'S all-new Panda goes on sale at the end of the month, priced from just £8,900 and offered in three trim levels.

Even the flagship 1.3-litre diesel, complete with air con, Start&Stop and alloy wheels is attractive at £12,250.

The new car is said to be larger and more sophisticated than its predecessor but retains the same versatile five-door estate-style body of the old model.



Ad splash for reborn 300C

CHRYSLER is relaunching itself in the UK with a £10 million ad campaign spearheaded by TV commercials and the arrival of its second generation 300C (pictured).

The larger than life original 300C was the epitome of motoring Americana, but Chrysler is also keen to promote its new smaller models, the Ypsilon and Delta, based on designs from new parent Fiat.



Tax appeal for revised Exeo

SPANISH brand Seat has launched a revised version of its classy Exeo executive saloon and ST estate range.

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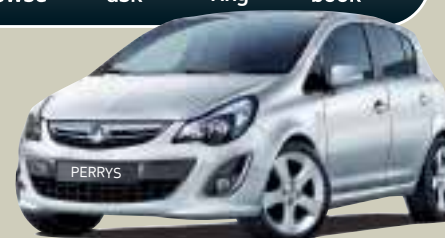
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- Archant KOS Media Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
- Archant KOS Media Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. Archant KOS Media Ltd will in full seek to recover, in all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
- Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
- A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from Archant KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with Archant KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per Archant KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
- Seasonal contracts. Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
- All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by Archant KOS Media Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), Archant KOS Media Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use Archant KOS Media Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by Archant KOS Media Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PHS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in Archant KOS Media Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
- Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within Archant KOS Media Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than that will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
- Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers purchased within the print or online media of Archant KOS Media Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via Archant KOS Media Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
- a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to Archant KOS Media Ltd shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
b. In the event that payment is not received by Archant KOS Media Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
c. In the event that payment is not received by Archant KOS Media Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
d. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of Archant KOS Media Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
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- Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. The commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
- All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by Archant KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
- The Advertiser agrees to indemnify Archant KOS Media Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the Archant KOS Media Group as a result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
- An order for an advertisement must amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
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*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper; 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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57 REG ASTRA SPORTS HATCH SXi 1.4 3DR Silver Lightening	£6495
60 REG ASTRA DESIGN AUTO 1.8 5DR Black Sapphire	£5495
58 REG ASTRA SRi CDTi EX PACK 1.9 3DR White	£7995
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60 REG ASTRA SRi SPORTS HATCH 1.4 3DR Ultra Blue	£8995
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60 REG ASTRA SRi SPORTS HATCH X PACK 1.8 3DR Black Sapphire	£11225
11 REG ASTRA EXCITE 1.4 5DR Black Sapphire	£11995
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Women Seeking

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774

LONELY lady, retired nurse, 68, likes country/western music, nights in/out, GSOH, seeking male of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385835

CARING affectionate female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, seeks male, 60-70 with GSOH for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384871

MAISY seeks male who likes dogs, country walks, beach, meals out and knows there own mind for a relationship and to build memories, fun loving lady 47. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383733

SHARON 37yr old attractive feminine size 10, employed, OHAC, single mum of one, seeking similar lonely male with mature outlook. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385655

DEBS slim attractive stylish 40 looking for male who is prepared to give me lots of attention for fun times in return. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385653

JEAN professional nurse attractive and all women! loves wining and dining seeking white knight who appreciates a real black beauty. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385651

JAN genuinely attractive voluptuous sensual female looking for companionship with loving man, 35-65yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385597

JULIE blonde blue eyed outgoing female, 31yrs, seeking laid-back relationship with likeminded affectionate male, any age/looks or status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385595

RONNIE 39 looking for fun loving bit on the side! must have a GSOH and own home, I will provide the entertainment! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385593

CAROL alone on a Saturday night with a bag of chips, what am I doing? Sick of being single and looking for a male who can handle a good woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383119

SHARON 5ft 7ins, slim blonde, attractive, funny, good job, nice home, sports car, well educated/travelled, newly single and looking for love. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383113

ERIN attractive petite divorcee with own home, looking for nights in/out, friendship and maybe more with mature male. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383111

ALEX attractive professional, separated, no ties, OHAC, seeks similar romantic male for love, companionship and more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383049

SHARON 33, slim blonde, blue eyes outgoing, attractive, looking to put some much needed fun back into life, seeks male 30-45yrs. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383047

LOOKING to start the New Year of with a bang? Faye open minded 20yr old female just looking for fun times. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383045

FEMALE 58, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, cuddly, caring, likes animals, drink, good food, seeks likeminded male to share life with. Is that you? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383669

BLACK female, 35, GSOH, caring, loving, kind, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376611

CLAIRE 38 blue eyes, blonde, looking for professional gent up to 50yrs LTR. Call me to meet up for a casual drink and chat. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380881

FEMALE likes coast walks, shopping, gardening, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463

TIA 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for relationship and good friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081

WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079

CLARE attractive, petite, size 8, brown hair, blue eyes, likes theatre, walks, shopping, seeks genuine male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385673

KEELY blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, stays at home too much and looking for fun male with OHAC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385377

EMMA pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385373

GEM 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, extremely easygoing, WLTm genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385369

DIANE single fit female, no children, OHAC, lots of free time, looking for a nice man to get to know and hopefully fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385351

RUTH slim funny 18yr old brunette who loves cuddles seeks genuine guy for friendship leading to more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385349

SUSIE 45, 5ft 8ins, student, outgoing, easygoing, likes the outdoors, museums, theatre, socialising, seeks likeminded male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389716

IVY May tall, slim, voluptuous, seeking older, generous, kind, caring male, 75-80 for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385505

SANDRA 63, varied interests, cinema, walks, animals, meals out, N/S, social drinker, cuddly, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385315

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189

MARIA 47, curly blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, size 14, GSOH, likes reading, walks, WLTm kind, friendly, fun loving gent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380509

MARY 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, fun loving, likes nights in/out, seeks male with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385239

KEIRA 34yr old very attractive female, fed up of staying in alone, looking for likeminded male for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384055

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, dvds, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337

LOOKING for a nice soul mate, dinners, drinks, walks, someone who enjoys life, I am optimistic, happy, fun, cuddly, slim, red hair, enjoy good food, working out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379865

SUE long blonde haired slim curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male, 48-60yrs for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853

KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589

AUDREY recently widowed, seeks lonely gent for friendship and conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381213

ALICE 30's female, slim, lovely smile, not that happy at the moment but hoping you might change that, you've nothing to lose? Call me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379201

LISA blonde 31yrs, extremely fit and outgoing, seeking male for casual friendship with benefits. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380879

TRISH tall slim brunette, honest, reliable, affectionate, OHAC, no ties, outgoing, loves Indian food, seeking male 39-50yrs for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380877

CAROL attractive lady of leisure, solvent, OHAC, WLTm sincere gent willing to entertain and share all of life's indulgences with me. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380857

EMMIE 28yr old lonely single mum all out of love, looking for good company with male who can tame a confident beautiful lady. Any looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381363

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159

CHERYL young 54, attractive, petite, brunette, slim, likes most things, easygoing, looking for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380141

MARIE solvent, independent, likes meals out, good things in life, GSOH, love pets/children, seeks honest, affectionate male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388574

KATH 41 slim size 10, attractive and hardworking, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks cuddly romantic guy for ltr and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381339

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503

KATIE pretty slim blonde female, 35, N/S, likes pubs, countryside, meals out, seeking outgoing male for fun times, maybe relationship. Interested? ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382205

CLARE petite dark haired attractive female with lots of interests, seeking male for mutual companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382203

JULIE attractive blonde with strong family values seeking Mr Right. If you have a GSOH and are loving, pls reply. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384041

SHARON 50, widowed, looking for nice gent to take out to theatre, cinema, country walks and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384497

CARING genuine single mum, GSOH, 41, looking for genuine male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384349

NIAMH slim attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real woman. Or at least thinks he can. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384051

KIM 37, slim blue eyed brunette, divorced with no ties, looking for a genuine convenient friendship/more. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384049

SARA slim tall blonde bombshell, loves dancing, walking in the rain, WLTm genuine love life as much as I do. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384047

IN for a Penny in for a Pound. Gorgeous curvy figured attractive brunette, bubbly, outgoing and fun, looking for confident romantic companion. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383907

KERRY 32yr old single mum of one, ready to move on with a new relationship, WLTm genuine male for dates, text fun and more. Pls Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383901

JO 28yr old Auburn haired beauty looking for a bit of fun back in her life, seeks male to make me smile again. Age/looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383899

46YR old single mum, caring, loving, GSOH, seeks male for lasting relationship. Must like children. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385101

CHRISTIAN 60yr old dog owner, likes countryside, culture, seeks likeminded kind man for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384989

LOVELY lonely lady, fit and active, many interests, seeks N/S fun loving guy with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384951

BERYL retired, looking for similar male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384635

TRACY 39, fun blue eyed blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun, WLTm professional male for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384045

JO 21yr old single mum who loves nights out, seeks understanding male for fun and more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384043

MARY fun loving brunette, seeking friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTm male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497

TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, understanding, non materialist well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional male, 60's for simple joys. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379891

PAT 70's, 5ft, cuddly, seeks male for friendship and days out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369521

JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368039

STUNNING blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTm uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369221

AMANDA cuddly 36yr old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133

REBECCA brown hair/eyes, medium build, shy, likes animals, N/S, likes cosy nights in, walks, gardening, cuddles, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375995

JACQUELINE 48, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks male, 40-58 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370747

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217

ELIZABETH independent, no ties, solvent, fit and healthy, looking for similar passionate male, any age/looks for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375161

SASHA 28yr old beautiful surfer babe looking for fun initially, maybe more with fit confident male who can handle me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375131

LIFE begins at 40! Pam outgoing athletic brunette, tall, slender and attractive, WLTm old male with big personality for lots of fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374155

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385989

CLAIRE Gorgeous fun loving brunette, 29, 5ft 4ins, employed, OHAC, looking for manly male up to 45yrs for good times and fine wine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373107

Men Seeking

RICHARD dark hair, blue eyes, likes holidays, music, theatre, countryside, walks, cinema, meals out, seeking female, 35-64 for happy LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386071

MALE 55, VGSOH, saga reject, styled by Rigby, 5ft 10ins, fit, seeks female, 45-60 for fun, romance and whatever happens. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386035

ROBERT 5ft 6ins, dark hair, easygoing, seeks petite, easygoing lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389790

MALE seeks female for nights out, coast, meals out days out and to share home life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385891

SEAN looking for female, 35-48 for dates, fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385869

MICHAEL 62, seeks romantic, understanding, Maltese /Portuguese lady, 50-65 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385793

5FT 9ins male, brown hair, athletic, looking for female for 1-2-1 relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385733

MALE seeks sweet female for romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384939

PAUL 65, caring, likes socialising, pubs, meals out, coastal walks, football, darts, nights in, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384819

FEMALE

42, African, understanding, seeks romantic, understanding, outgoing male, 45-50 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383001

ANGELA Scottish female, dark hair, green eyes, attractive, new to the area, no lies, OHAC, seeks gentle male for good times and more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382227

FEMALE 74, 5ft 1ins, artistic, versatile, seeks nice caring gent for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378465

LADY late 50's, new to area, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378403

SHIRLEY young looking tall attractive fit female, OHAC, open minded, varied interests seeks tall male for genuine dates. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380005

MALE 57 seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385455

MALE 44, kind, honest, caring, hurt in past, own home, seeks female for nights out, romance and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385325

MALE 44, kind, honest, caring, own home, hurt in past seeks female for friendship and romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385035

FRED seeks female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385023

GARY dark hair, 6ft 4ins, ex door man, roofer, 45, slim, well built, seeks female for discreet good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389604

50YR old male, slim, 5ft 6ins, down to earth, GSOH, honest, likes music, country walks, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389206

Gay Seeking

JOHN gay male, 51, non scene, 15st, blue eyes, smoker, likes football, films, seeks younger 18-24 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384463

PAUL looking for someone for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379827

MARTIN bi CD, 50's, seeks similar for fun times. Can accommodate or travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374351

BI guy, looking for older gent, 50-60's for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372943

ALAN experienced bi male, seeks similar guy or couple for friendship and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379059


LEN min 60's, looking for active male, 55-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377261

MALE 42, clean shaven, seeks younger playmate for fun and games. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385465

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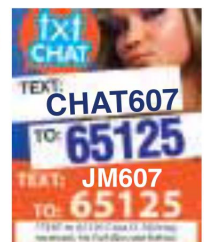
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Sport

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FOOTBALL

Dartford the sole survivors in FA Trophy

KENT'S hopes in the FA Trophy are dangling by a thread after Ebbsfleet United were knocked out on Tuesday night, leaving Dartford, who face a tricky third-round replay, as the county's sole survivors.

Dartford were held to a 2-2 draw with Ryman Premier League side Wealdstone at Princes Park on the same evening and had leading scorer Elliott Bradbrook forced off after just six minutes with a suspected hamstring injury.

The Darts went ahead on 28 minutes when Jacob Erskine forced an error and set up Ryan Harris for an easy finish, but on the stroke of half-time Richard Jolly headed in Chris O'Leary's cross to equalise.

Dartford regained the lead within six minutes of the restart, a 25-yarder from Danny Harris that was deflected in off Tom Hoban.

Wealdstone equalised 10 minutes from time, with O'Leary's header crashing in off the underside of the bar.

The replay takes place on Tuesday, with the winners travelling to either Cambridge United or Guiseley in the quarter-finals.

Ebbsfleet crashed out at York City, Matt Blair's 48th-minute goal condemning them to a 1-0 defeat, the only goal coming three minutes into the second period when Jason Walker's cross was deflected to Blair, who finished from close range.

York missed the chance to kill off the Fleet when Walker missed a late penalty.

MOTORSPORT

Brands keeps recession at bay by focusing on lower-profile events

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

By David Pritchard

david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

A SUCCESSFUL move into club motorsport several years ago is paying off for Brands Hatch as it attempts to weather tough economic conditions.

In 2006 the circuit's owner, Motorsport Vision, established an arm that focused on organising race events. It has steadily increased its portfolio and now runs 20 entire championships – up from 17 last year.

Of the 34 Motorsport Vision Racing (MSVR) events scheduled for 2012, 12 will be held at Brands Hatch. While the competitions, which include the F3 Cup and Lotus Cup, attract more modest crowds than higher-profile events like the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC), they have become indispensable.

Jonathan Palmer, chief executive at MSV, explained how vital the more peripheral series have become to the entire sport.

"Club motorsport really is crucial to the circuit," he said. "With major international events, people have this perception that they must make circuits a lot of money. They don't – some of them lose money and the reason is because they are always owned by somebody. Formula One doesn't make Silverstone huge amounts of money because the fees are very high.

"There also aren't that many major international events, but it's this bulk of activity in the racing that goes on weekend-in weekend-out and the testing that goes with it that is absolutely crucial to the viability of the circuit.

"We created MSVR to make sure we had an involvement as a club in this motorsport to really invest in a very important part of our future. It's working very well and it's set to expand further."

Brands has kept the jewels in its crown for 2012, with the BTCC coming twice during the season and the British Superbike Championship



VARIED: The MSVR series covers a wide range of motorsport types, from small single-seater racing through to powerful GT cars

BRANDS 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

- Mar 31/Apr 1: British Touring Car Championship
- Apr 6-9: British Superbike Championship
- May 18-20: DTM (German Touring Cars)
- Jun 16-17: Mini Festival
- Jun 23-24: British F3/GT Championships
- Jul 13-15: FIA Formula Two and International GT Open
- Jul 20-22: British Superbike Championship
- Sept 5-8: Paralympic Road Cycling
- Oct 12-14: British Superbike Championship
- Oct 20-21: British Touring Car Championship

(BSB) visiting three times. Significantly, both of the hugely popular series will hold their final rounds of the season at the West Kingsdown circuit.

In October the BSB finale at Brands produced a nailbiting finish and with the BTCC now switching back to the track for the climax it makes for bumper back-to-back race weekends in October.

Palmer said: "We've traditionally had the final round of British Touring Cars and it's back to its rightful place.

"The final is an important round and of course as championships we want them to go to the wire, whether it's British Touring Cars or British Superbikes, which was amazing last year.

"It's going to be a great crescendo to the year for Brands Hatch and we're going to get big crowds for the final rounds."

ATHLETICS

Bustling Bosworth off to a flier as he keeps focus on Olympics

A RECORD-BREAKING performance got Tom Bosworth's season off to a terrific start ahead of an attempt to qualify for the Olympics this summer.

The race-walker smashed the British under-23 indoor record for the 5,000 metres at the Indoor Championships of Ireland in Belfast last weekend.

The 22-year-old knocked almost a minute off his personal best and more than 30 seconds off the previous national record to finish in 19 minutes 50 seconds.

Bosworth, from Sevenoaks, set the overall national record over the same distance last summer and was delighted to claim another, even if he was initially unaware of what had been achieved.

He said: "It was the perfect race,

really, and I haven't done any speed work. It proved the last six weeks of hard work have got me to a high level.

"I didn't know what the record was. I just texted my coach the result and it was only when he replied I found out I'd broken it, which was a nice surprise."

Bosworth is hoping the accolade is just a stepping stone ahead of the most critical year of his career. The main aim is Olympic qualification, which cannot happen unless just over two minutes can be trimmed off his personal best for 20 kilometres.

After an excellent winter training, which included a three-week camp in Spain, confidence is high ahead of the first outdoor race of the season, in Lugano, Switzerland, next month.



CYCLING

'I wish it was easier to get back more often' says Staff on return

OLYMPIC champion Jamie Staff returned to the county this week for a ride with two of his United States track squad.

The 38-year-old, who won gold in the team sprint at Beijing four years ago, retired almost two years ago and is now in charge of the US track team.

With the squad in London for the World Cup this weekend, a test event ahead of the Olympics, Staff jumped at greeted the chance to return home.

Joined by US riders Kevin Mansker and Madalyn Godby, plus several local riders, he led a ride around the country lanes near his home town of Ashford on Wednesday.

The peloton was welcomed at the Julie Rose Stadium by dozens of children on their own bikes.

Staff said: "It's just something different, really, to let these guys come and see where I grew up. They're just

starting out in their careers and it's a bit of fun for the day.

"It's great to see so many young kids out on their bikes. I wish it was easier to get back here more often."

The US squad are starting from a relatively low level compared with the world-class team their coach was part of with Great Britain. They will be using this weekend's event as a learning experience ahead of attempting to qualify for the Olympics this summer.

The buzz ahead of the Games has crossed the Atlantic and Staff is impressed with the new facilities.

He said: "Everyone's excited about London and we know it's going to be a good Games because they're organised and the venues are built, so there's no major worries there.

"The velodrome is beautiful – it's not over the top and fits perfectly in with the environment. It's amazing."

Picture: PAUL JERRETT



GOLDEN BOY: Jamie Staff

Sport

For more sports news and pictures go to www.kentsport.co.uk

PORT VALE V GILLINGHAM:

Kick-off 3pm Saturday at Vale Park

Hess turns to young guns in attempt to halt slump

By David Pritchard

david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

YOUTH looks set to be given a chance at Gillingham as manager Andy Hessenthaler considers a gamble to halt an awful sequence of results.

The side's slump was extended to five defeats in six league games on Monday night, when Southend United won 2-1 at Priestfield.

It saw the Gills slip further down League Two and they now need a surge in form before the end of the season to force their way back into the play-off places.

The one crumb of comfort for Hessenthaler on Monday was the performances by three younger players who were thrown in at the deep end.

Goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga and defenders Jack Evans and Connor Essam had two league appearances between them before the game, but the trio looked composed.

With number-one stopper Ross Flitney out for a month after knee surgery, Gazzaniga is certain of a run in the side and with experienced players in the back four struggling for form Evans and Essam could also start at Port Vale on Saturday.

Hessenthaler admitted it was a risk but feels something needs to be done to stop the rot.

He said: "I think the fans would probably look at it and think we're not getting results with what we've been playing, so it's time to have a go with these young boys. I was delighted with them in the second half [against Southend]."

"They play with no fear, kids, they don't worry about things too much and I think the fans were

Picture: ADY KERRY



FEARLESS: Teenage full-back Jack Evans is in line for his first Gillingham start this weekend

right behind them. I think sometimes you have to think about changing things.

"Is it a gamble? Yeah, probably it is, but one I'm prepared to take."

There is likely to be one enforced change, with skipper Andy Frampton injuring an ankle against Southend. Jack Payne will also be monitored closely after picking up a knock, but it

FACT FILE:

PORT VALE

HEAD-TO-HEAD: 30 games – Gills 13 wins, Vale 12 wins

LAST MEETING: Gillingham 1 Port Vale 1
October 8, 2011 (League Two)

PREVIOUS GAME: Bradford 1, Port Vale 1
Tuesday, February 14, 2012 (League Two)

PORT VALE'S FORM: LLLWWD

LEAGUE POSITION: 21st

TALKING POINT: Marc Richards. Vale's top-scorer has netted 10 goals from 14 league starts this season, including a goal at Priestfield in October. The former Blackburn Rovers trainee needs just two goals to complete a century of league strikes.



FOOTBALL

Strong Gills reserves lose to Chelsea in 5-4 thriller

GILLINGHAM gave a trial to two former Premier League players in their 5-4 defeat in a reserve game with Chelsea at the Londoners' Cobham training ground on Tuesday.

Former Tottenham midfielder Rohan Ricketts and ex-Charlton defender Jonathan Fortune both featured in a strong Gillingham line-up that included Simon King, Chris Whelpdale and Dennis Oli, plus West Ham's Ollie Lee, who was on loan with Dagenham & Redbridge earlier this season.

Lee impressed, scoring once and setting up another, while the 31-year-old Fortune, a free agent who has been training with Gillingham, also did well.

Daren Hawkes, recalled from a loan deal with Maidstone United last week, started in goal but conceded to Jacob Mellis and George Saville as Chelsea took a 2-0 lead into the break.

Callum Davies pulled one back for the Gills early in the second half before Reece Mitchell made it 3-1.

Ricketts, whose exotic CV includes spells with Arsenal, Wolves, Toronto, Wilhelmshaven in Germany and Ireland's Shamrock



CENTRAL: Simon King played in loss

Rovers, squandered a good chance and Patrick Bamford looked to have made the game safe when he added Chelsea's fourth.

However, Gillingham then mounted a remarkable fightback.

Whelpdale lobbed in the visitors' second, Lee added a third and Bradley Dack equalised, only for Bamford, signed for £1.5 million from Nottingham Forest, to hit Chelsea's fifth, and the winner, from the penalty spot.

CHATHAM TOWN V AFC SUDBURY:

Kick-off 3pm Saturday at Maidstone Road

Chats reap benefit of three weeks off with fully-fit squad

CHATHAM Town are optimistic they will be back in action this weekend after three weeks without a game.

The Chats are due to host AFC Sudbury in Ryman Division 1 North and one bonus from the enforced lay-off is that they have a full squad from which to choose.

"We've been pretty lucky with injuries this year," assistant manager Keith Levett said.

"Something might come out of training in the week, but we should have everyone available. There was a blanket of snow on the pitch, but it should clear. Provided we don't get a frost, we should be OK."

Chatham, 14th, were supposed to be hosting Great Wakering last Saturday, but that fixture went the way of every other game in Kent and the team go into the Sudbury game without having kicked a ball in anger since they blew a 2-0 lead in the last five minutes to draw with Potters Bar on Saturday, January 28.

Eighth-placed Sudbury beat Chatham 1-0 when the sides met in Suffolk in October.

Picture: NICK DUNGAN



CHALLENGE: Chats' Keith Levett

"They were on top for the first 20 minutes, but we grew into it and were a bit unlucky not to get a point," Levett said.

"Some of our football was very good, but they're a good team and we'll have to put in a much better display on Saturday."

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS

WITH FRED ATKINS

Let the abused have a free hit

“WHEREVER the moral high ground is, it appears to have been invaded this week by members of the football elite desperate to make a stand for a variety of causes.

There is, of course, no suggestion that any of these people are hypocrites who are gleefully trying to slur other teams or individuals while pursuing their own agenda, and only a cynic would feel otherwise.

As Mr Mackie from South Park might say, racism is bad. So is homophobia, spitting, the Greek debt crisis and, above all, failing to shake someone's hand.

Admittedly what Luis Suarez did at Old Trafford was about as clever as walking into a Sheerness boozer and doing a routine from Glee, but he didn't get drunk and drive his car into a wall, he didn't roger his team-mate's former girlfriend and he didn't leap into the crowd to kung-fu-kick a fan, incidents for which better players have been forgiven.

It's just possible there's been an over-reaction to the Suarez non-handshake incident, but the wider issue of general abuse in the name of provocation is arguably a more serious problem.

Some anecdotal examples:

- 1) At a Kent derby three seasons ago a player reacted to the concession of a last-minute equaliser by going into the tunnel and launching a tirade of verbal abuse – at a tea lady.
- 2) At a Ryman League game a deaf player yelled to his team-mate for a pass. His unnaturally high voice led to a cry of "You're a mincer!" from a self-styled comedian in the home stand.
- 3) In a Kent Youth League game a player was sent off for reacting after his opponent informed him he had recently enjoyed a brief carnal relationship with his mother.
- 4) At another Kent derby a player told his opponent: "I hope your mum dies of cancer." With grim irony, it transpired the player-in-question's mother had died of cancer just months beforehand. He lashed out and was sent off.

In all four instances the abuse was not racist but it was unacceptable. And in all four cases the perpetrators escaped any kind of punishment.

The first was just sad. In the second the abuser wouldn't have abused a disabled person but had no qualms about being homophobic. In the third instance the abused player 'learned his lesson' and, depressingly, accepted it as part of the game. In the fourth case people can posture about not reacting, but the innocent victim here has been punished and the guilty man rewarded.

The solution? Adopt the policy pioneered by the Australian Rugby League only a few years ago. Where possible, punish only the transgressor and absolve any act of retaliation.

A player who ignores the Respect agenda might think twice about insulting someone if he knows his victim gets the first punch for free.



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